



\$3.95

January 2024



Northwest Chess

January 2024, Volume 78-01 Issue 912

ISSN Publication 0146-6941

USPS publication 422390

Published monthly by the *Northwest Chess* Board.
To see the games from this issue online click:

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Office of Record:
Northwest Chess c/o Orlov Chess Academy 4174 148th Ave
NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052-5164.

Periodicals postage paid at Seattle, Washington
USPS periodicals postage permit number (0422-390)

NWC Staff

Editor: Jeffrey Roland, jeffreyroland9@gmail.com
Games Editor: Ralph Dubisch, chesscoaching@gmail.com
Publisher: Duane Polich, publisher@nwchess.com
Business Manager: businessmanager@nwchess.com

Board Representatives

Aniruddha Barua, Alex Machin, Duane Polich, Ralph Dubisch,
Jeffrey Roland, Josh Sinanan, Wilson Gibbins, Eric Holcomb.

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On the front cover:

Stephen Willy. First Place Master/Expert section at the
Oregon Class Championship. Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.

On the back cover:

George Oliver, winner of the best dressed prize in the
Open section, ponders his next move at the Veterans Day
Open. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

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News

Bryce Tiglon Grandmaster

Flash

Congratulations to Bryce Tiglon of Woodinville, Washington, who recently became the Pacific Northwest's newest Grandmaster! Bryce achieved his third and final GM Norm at the recently concluded Chessable Sunway Sitges International Chess Festival, which took place from December 12-22, 2023 in Barcelona, Spain. Along the way, Bryce scored an undefeated 7.5/10 points in Group A, including victories against GM Jingyao Tin (2573) and GM H. Bharath Subramaniam (2504).

Bryce is currently in college at Stanford University, where he is pursuing a double major. With this fantastic performance, Bryce becomes the second grandmaster ever from Washington State since Yasser Seirawan achieved the title in 1980!

Congratulations to Bryce!
Cheers,
Josh



2023 Oregon Class Championships

Wilson Gibbins

The Oregon Class Championships were held on November 4-5, Daylight Saving weekend. It was conveniently scheduled in time to answer two questions which, as president of the Oregon Chess Federation, keep me up at night.

1. Is over-the-board chess still growing?
2. Does Washington's Stephen Willy, Oregon Open co-champion, own Oregon Chess?

The answer to the first question: maybe, though perhaps not as fast as before. We had 88 players, up from 76 last year — a good trend, but not as good as the 2023 Oregon Open or 2023 Washington Open. But there was a big jump in Master/Expert section which had 24 players this year, up from 12 last year and six in 2021. I am no math major, but

based on trends, I think I can safely predict 48 players in the Master/Expert section in 2024. Since there are currently only 25 masters and experts in Oregon, we will be expecting a lot of help from Washington next year. Or maybe we should just count on a boatload of play-up fees. 😊

Regarding the more troubling second question, Stephen Willy appears to be staking his claim to Oregon Chess. Lucky for us two Oregonians defended our turf. Stephen tied for first in the Master/Expert section with Zoey Tang and Michael Omori. Stephen and Zoey drew their last round game which you can view below with Stephen's notes. Michael lost to Stephen in round three but won his other four games to catch the leaders in round five. Micheal annotated his round two win against 2023 Vancouver Open Champion Isaac Vega, which also appears below.

Siddharth Bhaskaran won the Class A section by winning his last three games after starting with two draws. He clinched

first with a last round win over second-place finisher Ethan Morehouse, a game which Ethan generously annotated below, along with his win over Oregon Open Class A co-champion Jerry Sherrard. Brent Baxter and Charles Smith shared third.

Jaden Marx won the Class B section by a full point over second-place finishers Andrew Rankin and Ethan Tammar. Jaden beat Andrew in round three and drew Ethan in round four.

Hung Le won the Class C section with draws in rounds one and five sandwiching his three wins, including one over second-place finisher Mikhail Arturov. Yuchang Yang, Miranda Meng, and Bob Liu tied for third.

In Class D, Andrew Yoon lost his first-round game to Andrew Alexander A Uan-Zo-Li but finished strong with four wins to take clear first. This is one of the great aspects of Class Championships



*Siddharth Bhaskaran.
Class A, First Place.
Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.*



*Hung Le.
Class C, First Place.
Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.*



*Andrew Yoon.
Class D, First Place.
Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.*

— you can have an early round slip and still fight back to take first, as Lennart Bjorksten did in the 2022 edition of the Master/Expert section. Andrew tied for second place with David Goeres.

Yian Lin won the Class E Section and 130 rating points with four wins and a draw, including a win over second-place finisher Jesse Yan in round one and a draw with third-place finisher Emily Michael in round three.

Sambhav Koppala won the Class F section and gained 113 rating points with a record of three wins and two draws. Kenzo Fonseca and Mihir Palan finished tied for second.

Thanks to Dave Murray for organizing and directing this tournament, especially for setting and managing the expectation for safe and respectful play. Thanks to Mike Morris and Greg Markowski helping us handle all those crazy details that arise before round one — Greg’s cash management system was crucial for helping people buy sets if they didn’t bring one. Finally, thanks to Stephen Willy, Michael Omori, Ethan Morehouse, and Carl Haessler for providing annotations to the games, giving the readers an insider’s perspective on the tournament.

One final thought on the Stephen Willy Oregon Invasion: I have identified a final bastion to prevent his total domination of Oregon Chess. I guarantee that the Oregon Senior Open will be 100% Stephen Willy free, at least for another 35 years.



Ethan Tammar.
Class B, Second Place tie.
Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.

Games

**Isaac Vega (1824) –
Michael Omori (2153) [B06]**
Oregon Class Championships
Portland, OR (R2), November 4, 2023
[Michael Omori]

1.e4 g6 2.f4?! d5

I had recently played Isaac in a tourney the previous month as Black and decided to mix things up. This was my prep, and I chose this move order over a c5-setup first as this way I could get my light-square bishop out of my pawn structure. This move ordering already gives Black a slight advantage as White doesn’t really want to take d5 because the king will be exposed in an open position, and with e5 Black gets a superior setup compared to similar openings.

3.e5 c5

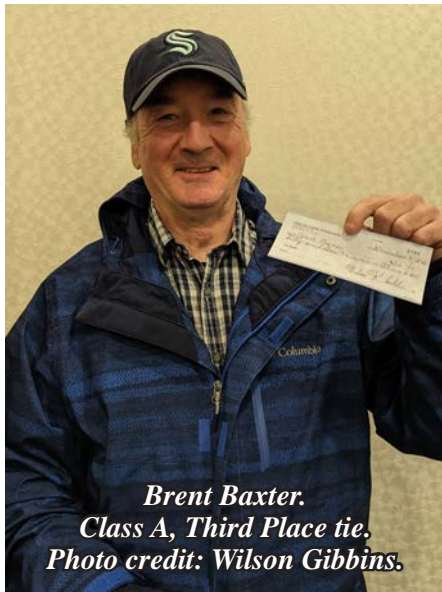
A must to maintain the fight over the d4-square.

4.Nc3

Inaccurate because the knight can get kicked easily.

4...a6?!

A miscalculation on my part as I thought after ...Nc6, Bb5, I was going to get the classic doubled pawns, but I missed ...Nxe5! 4...Nc6 5.Bb5 Bd7 6.Nf3 (6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.d4; 6.Nxd5 Nxe5 7.Bxd7+ Nxd7 8.Qe2 Bg7 9.Nf3 Nh6 10.0-0 e6 11.d3 0-0 12.Nc3 Qc7 13.Bd2 Nf5 14.Rac1



Brent Baxter.
Class A, Third Place tie.
Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.

Nf6 15.Kh1 h5 16.Ne5 Rac8 17.b3 Rfe8 18.Ne4 Nd7 19.Nf3 b5 20.c3 a5 21.Rb1 Nf6 22.Ne5 b4 23.Rbc1 Qb7) 6...Nh6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.d4 Nf5 9.Ne2 e6 10.c3 h5 11.Ng3

5.a4?

Stopping ...b5 5.d4 e6 6.Nf3 Nh6 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.Be3 c4 9.Be2 b5 10.a3 Nf5 11.Bf2 h5.

5...Nc6 6.Nf3 Bg4

Pin to win.

7.Be2 e6 8.0-0 h5 9.Ne1



Position after 9.Ne1

9...Bxe2

I was happy to trade off my bad bishop, though I missed the very strong idea of 9...Nh6 10.Bxg4 hxg4 11.g3 Qc7 12.d3 0-0-0 13.Bd2 c4 14.Rb1 Bc5+ 15.Kg2 Nf5 16.Qxg4 Be3 17.Qe2 Ncd4.

10.Nxe2 Nh6 11.Nf3 Nf5 12.g3 Be7 13.c3

Having gotten my pieces into their optimal squares, with a strong knight



David Goers.
Class D, Second Place tie.
Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.

outpost on f5. It was time to determine my plan, and I was debating between ...d4 and ...c4 as White's idea is to go d4 and solidify the center. My gut told me to go d4, but I calculated for a few minutes and chose the slightly inferior plan of ...c4.

13...c4?!

13...d4 14.d3 Qb6 15.Bd2 0-0 (15...0-0-0 I missed the bold plan of queenside castling as it looked risky but according to the computer, Black has nothing to fear. 16.cxd4 Kb8 17.dxc5 (17.a5 Qb5 18.d5 Rxd5 (18...exd5 19.Qc2 Nb4 20.Bxb4 cxb4 21.Qb3 Rd7)) 17...Bxc5+ 18.Kh1) 16.c4 I had calculated this variation, in which Black maintains the space advantage, but it doesn't look decisive.

14.b4?

I'm guessing the next move was missed. 14.d4 b5 (14...Na5; 14...cxd3 15.Qxd3) 15.axb5 axb5 16.Bd2

14...d4 15.cxd4



Position after 15.cxd4

15...Nxb4?!

At this point I have four different captures, and I spent about four minutes unsure of which one to choose, so I just picked one, and unluckily the worst option according to Stockfish. 15...Nfxd4 16.Nexd4; 15...Ncxd4 16.Nexd4 Nxd4 17.Rb1 h4 18.g4 Qb6 19.Kg2 (19.Kh1 0-0-0 20.b5 h3 21.Nxd4 Rxd4 22.Qe2 Rhd8 23.Bb2 (23.Qe3 Qa5 24.bxa6 Qd5+ 25.Qf3 bxa6 26.Qxd5 R8xd5 27.Rb6 Re4 28.Rxa6 (28.f5 gxf5 29.gxf5) 28...Kb7))

16.Ba3

16.a5 0-0 17.Ba3

16...a5 17.Bxb4?

17.Qb1 Qd5 18.Nc3 Qd7 19.Qe4 0-0 20.Rfc1 Rfd8 21.Nb5 Rdc8 22.Kg2 Ra6 23.Rab1 Rb6

17...axb4

In this position Black should have good chances of converting with a passed pawn three moves away from queening and White's pawn structure severely compromised with doubled pawns in the center, Black's strong bishop, and Black's a8-rook pressuring the isolated a4-pawn.

18.Qc2 Qd5 19.h3?!

19.Rac1 Rc8 20.h3 Kf8 21.Kf2 Kg7 22.Ra1 b6 23.Rfc1 Rc7 24.Rab1 Ra8 25.g4 Nh4

19...Kf8?!

A standard procedure to castle by hand and keep the rook on the file that may be potentially opened. 19...b5 20.a5 (20.axb5 Rxa1 21.Rxa1) 20...b3 21.Qb1 (21.Qb2 b4 22.a6 Ra7) 21...b4 22.a6 Kf8

23.Qe1 Kg7 24.Qf2 b2 25.Rab1 Rxa6 26.Rxb2

20.Kf2

A very clever idea to get the rook to the h1-square and potentially let the king flee to the queenside.

20...Kg7

Fianchettoing the king.

21.Rh1 b6 22.Rac1?

22.Rhc1 Rhc8 23.Rcb1 Ra5 24.Rc1 Qa8 25.Qb2 Qb7 26.Rc2 Qd5 27.Qc1 Raa8 28.g4 Nh4



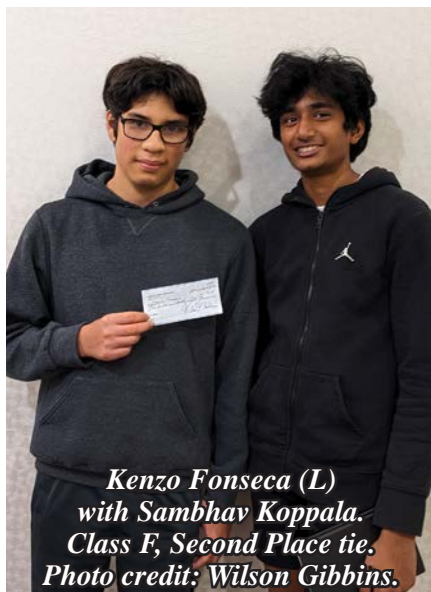
Position after 22.Rac1

22...Rac8?

22...b5 I missed this very nice idea, which is a temporary pawn sac, but if White takes the poisoned pawn, Black can invade with the rook and dominate the third rank. 23.Rhf1 (23.axb5 Ra3 24.Nh2 (24.Ne1) 24...Rc8 (24...Nxc3 25.Nxc3 Bh4 26.Rhg1 Qxd4+ 27.Ke2 Bxc3 28.Qxc4 Qf2+ 29.Kd1 Qxg1+ 30.Kc2 Qxh2) 25.Qb2 Rd3 26.Rhg1 h4 27.g4 Nxd4 28.Nxd4 Rxd4) 23...Rxa4 24.Ra1



Andrew Rankin.
Class B, Second Place tie.
Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.



Kenzo Fonseca (L)
with Sambhav Koppala.
Class F, Second Place tie.
Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.



Yian Lin.
Class E, First Place.
Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.

Rha8 25.Rxa4 bxa4 26.g4 Nh4 27.Nxh4 Bxh4+ 28.Kg1 a3 29.f5

23.Rcg1?!

23.Qa2 b3 24.Qa1 Qa8 25.Nc3 Rhd8 26.Nb5 Kg8 27.Rhd1 h4 28.g4 Ng3 29.d3 cxd3

23...Rhd8

My longest think of the game for 17 minutes. My pieces were mostly in good squares, so moving any of them would make a slight concession. I was calculating ...Nxd4 but it doesn't work out well enough. Unable to resist the urge to pawn grab, I piled up onto d4 hoping to get my reward. 23...Nxd4 24.Nexd4 Bc5 25.Ke3 Rhd8 26.Qe4 Bxd4+ 27.Nxd4

24.g4 hxg4?!

24...Nxd4 25.Nexd4 Bc5 26.Kg2 b3 27.Qb1 Bxd4 28.Rc1 b2 29.Rc3 Bxc3 30.dxc3 Qb7 31.Qxb2

25.hxg4 Nxd4 26.Nexd4



Position after 26.Nexd4

26...Bc5



Miranda Meng (R), with her sister Amanda. Class C, Third Place tie. Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.

The tactical shot.

27.Kg3 Bxd4 28.Rg2 Rh8 29.Rgh2 b3 30.Qb1 b2

The pawn ties down the queen.

31.Ng5 Rxh2 32.Rxh2 Bxe5

Black has several options, but I thought this was the most fun. 32...Qd7 Black could get easily get into trouble with a lazy move 33.Rh7+ Kg8 34.Qh1

33.Rh7+ Kg8 34.Rxf7 Qd3+

Removing the defender

35.Qxd3 cxd3 36.fxe5 b1Q 37.Rf6 Qe1+ 0-1

Ethan Morehouse (1806) – Jerry Sherrard (1915) [B90]

Oregon Class Championships
Portland, OR (R4), November 4, 2023
[Ethan Morehouse]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.f3 h5 9.Qd2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Rc8 11.Kb1 Qc7 12.Nd5 Bxd5 13.exd5 g6 14.c4

c4 was the last idea that I had reviewed in this line, so from here on out I had to come up with my own plans. It proved to be difficult in this position.

14...b6 15.Rc1 Be7 16.Bd3 Kf8 17.Qf2 Kg7 18.Be4 Nc5

18...Nxe4 19.fxe4 would give away the bishop-pair, but would strengthen my center and give me the half-open f-file. 19...Rcf8 20.Nd2 Nc5 21.Rc3

19.Nxc5 bxc5 20.Rc3 Rb8 21.Qc2 Rb7 22.b3 h4 23.f4 exf4 24.Bxf4 Nh5 25.Bc1 Bf6 26.Rf3 Qe7 27.Rhf1 Bd4



Position after 27...Bd4

28.Bb2

28.Rxf7+ I had assumed this would be better for me, but if you take a closer look 28...Qxf7 29.Rxf7+ Rxf7 30.Bf3 (30.Bxg6 Rf2!) 30...Re8 all of Black's pieces

activate and mine are stuck defending.

28...Qe5 29.Bxd4 Qxd4 30.Qb2 Qxb2+ 31.Kxb2 Re7 32.Bd3 f5 33.Kc3 Nf6 34.g3 hxg3 35.Rxg3 Kf7 36.h3 Nh5 37.Rgf3 Rhe8 38.Kd2 Kf6 39.R1f2



Position after 39.R1f2

30...Re5

39...Re1 A little trick I had concocted 40.Rxf5+ gxf5 41.Rxf5+ Kg7 (41...Kg6 42.Re5+) 42.Rxh5 It's probably still winning for Black after 42...Ra1 but I thought I'd complicate things.

40.a3 f4 41.Be2 g5 42.Rd3 Ng7 43.h4 Nf5 44.hxg5+ Kxg5 45.Rg2+ Ng3 46.Bf3 Re3

He played this move in about a minute and just overlooked that his pawn was overloaded.

47.Rxg3+ fxg3 48.Rxe3 Rh8 49.Re2 1-0

Stephen Willy (2214) – Carl Haessler (2200) [C41]

Oregon Class Championships
Portland, OR (R4), November 5, 2023
[Wilson Gibbins]

Carl was in good form, starting the tournament with two wins and a fighting draw against Jason Cigan. Stephen Willy was in good form demonstrated by his Oregon Open co-championship in September and obtaining a National Master title in October. So, this shaped up to be a key game in the tournament. Carl invited me to analyze the game with him during the downtime between rounds four and five.

As we started to look at the game, a small crowd gathered, eventually including Stephen Willy. There were lots of suggested alternatives to the moves the players chose, but the suggestions rarely led to clarity. Therefore, I was interested to see what the engines had to say. They confirmed that this was a very complicated

game. Comments from the players will be prefixed by their names, followed by a colon. All comments without prefixes should be blamed on Wilson Gibbins.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6

Is Carl planning to bleed some of the life out of the game with a stodgy Philidor Defense with the hope of minimizing the creative attacking dreams of his opponent who is over 50 years younger?

3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 g6



Position after 4...g6

No way — Carl is young at heart and plays the ultra-aggressive Larsen Variation of the Philidor Defense. It is sort of like a Dragon Sicilian, with the exception that Black has a half-open e-file instead of a half-open c-file. This seems like a bad tradeoff to a Sicilian player. But as someone who has stumbled into this line as White, I have seen Black's c-pawn advance rapidly towards my long-castled king. The evaluation of this position isn't as simple as calling it a better version of the Yugoslav Attack in the Dragon Sicilian.

5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.h3

Stephen chooses a less popular line where the outcome of the game will rely on both players' abilities to improvise. The main lines are 7.Qd2; and 7.f3 aiming to castle long, advance the h-pawn, trade off dark-squared bishops with Be3-h6, and "sac, sac, and mate" as Bobby Fischer put it.

Stephen Willy: When I played h3 for some reason I thought if I played f3 there would be eventual problems with d5 (funny enough there aren't after f3 but there is after what I played).

7...0-0 8.g4 Re8

Carl uses the open e-file that was mentioned in the note to move four. Carl can simplify his way to equality by borrowing from the Dragon Sicilian and using the standard pawn-break 8...d5, but

that would have deprived us of a very entertaining game.

9.Bg2 c6 10.Qd2 Na6



Position after 10...Na6

This reminds me of the game Cesareo Tongco played against Andrew Carson in the 2023 Oregon Open, which you can see on page 14 of your November 2023 issue of *Northwest Chess*.

11.0-0

Cesareo castled long, and his king did come under attack before he pulled out the win. Stephen decides that discretion is the better part of valor.

11...Nc5 12.f3

White's kingside is starting to look a little drafty, but his space advantage combined with good development allows Stephen to keep everything under control. Well, at least for a little while.

12...a5 13.Rad1 Qe7 14.Rfe1 h5

Carl tries to open lines around that drafty kingside.



Position after 14...h5

15.Bf4

Shoring up the dark squares around White's king and bearing down on the weak d-pawn. Stockfish prefers to grab space. 15.g5 Nfd7 16.f4 Since Black can't easily attack the e-pawn with a second minor piece, White can afford to advance the f-pawn, as he no longer needs pawn protection of e4.

Stephen Willy: Of course instead of Bf4 I should play g5 and f4. I saw what he played but underestimated it.

15...hxg4 16.fxg4!



Position after 16.fxg4

I will be sprinkling in a few exclamation marks for moves that are by no means winning and only slightly better than the alternatives but are non-intuitive to your author. Here is the first. White (1) gives up pawn protection of his e-pawn, (2) grants Black a permanent outpost on e5, and (3) takes on a third pawn island, so this is not a move I would choose. But it is a good move, as issues one and three will disappear on the next move.

Stephen Willy: My decision of fxg4 was probably to open up the light-squared bishop.

16...Nfd7 17.Nf5!

This isn't a winning move — the game is still equal. But it is the best move in the position, creating a position where, as Tal put it, "You must take your opponent into a deep dark forest where 2+2=5, and the path leading out is only wide enough for one."

Stephen Willy: I played Nf5, as if I don't, I just get a worse position after he gets a blockade on e5. So why not try to complicate things?

17...gxf5 18.Bxd6 Qh4

Carl is following the path so far, but this position has so many candidate moves that appear to result in the evaluation "unclear" that he is unlikely to stay on the path for long.

19.exf5 Be5

Better than all alternatives except one. 19...Rxe1+ 20.Rxe1 b6!= a quiet move in a sharp position, not easy to find. Stockfish says White has lots of tries, but all result in equality.

20.Re3 b6 21.Rde1 Qf6



Position after 21...Qf6

As further demonstration of how irrational this position is, Black's best move is 21...Qh6± where White's only reply that retains a significant advantage is to give up one of his pawns and the potential of a rolling kingside pawn majority with 22.g5 luring Black's queen off the attack of the bishop on d6 so White can play Qf2 (22.Qf2? Qxd6) 22...Qxg5 23.Qf2! Bxd6! (23...Qf6 24.Bxe5 Rxe5 25.Qg3+ another reason for the g4–g5 pawn sacrifice — open up the g-file. 25...Kf8 26.Rxe5 Nxe5 27.Rxe5±) 24.Rxe8+ Kh7 25.Qd4!± Bf8!

22.Kh1?

Stephen also faces the problem of consistently finding best moves in a complex position. It seems funny to be grabbing pawns in such a sharp position, but 22.Bxc6!+- opens the d5 and b5 squares for White's knight on c3. 22...Bd4 (22...Bb7 23.Bxb7 Nxb7 24.Bxe5 Nxe5 25.Qd5 Nd6 26.Rxe5) 23.Nd5

Stephen Willy: I saw Bxc6 ideas but didn't play it on move 22 because I was worried about ...Bd4, however this is met with Nd5 and I am winning 23...Qxd6 24.Qxd4 Rxe3 25.Rxe3 Bb7 26.Ne7+

22...Bb7=



Position after 22...Bb7

And Carl is back in the game.

23.a3 a4!

Stops White from playing b2–b4 to drive away the knight on c5, and perhaps Black

will develop the rook on a8 to a5 to defend across the fifth rank.

24.R1e2

Stephen Willy: At this point we were pretty low on time making a huge influence on the decisions.

24...Red8?!

Many Black moves retain the balance, but Stockfish likes 24...Kg7 the most.

25.Bxe5± Nxe5 26.Qe1 Nc4



Position after 26...Nc4

27.Rg3

Once again Stockfish suggests sacrificing one of the pawns in White's potential kingside pawn-roller with 27.g5! Qxf5 28.Rf3 Qg6 29.Qh4 Nd7! stopping 30.Rf6 30.Ne4! Ra5! Black's queenside rook finally decides to contribute to the effort in the late middlegame. 31.Rd3 Rd5! 32.Nf6+ Nxf6 33.gxf6 Rxd3 34.cxd3 And Stockfish claims a very slight edge for White after an unlikely sequence of "only" moves. 34...Nd6! 35.Be4! Nxe4! 36.Rg2! Nd6! though this position looks extremely unclear to me.

27...Kf8?

Carl's king can run but it can't hide. In the post-mortem, I suggested trying to block the pawn-roller using Black's queen, a piece not known as a great blockader. 27...Qg5 28.Rf3 threatening 29.h4, as 29...Qxg4 fails to 30.Rg3, pinning the queen.

But I didn't see the sequence leading to a repetition of moves 28...Nd2 (Black can play on with 28...Nd6; or 28...Ba6) 29.Rfe3 Nc4 30.Rf3 Nd2; My suggestion isn't nearly as good as 27...Qh4; or 27...Nd6 with an edge for Black, though there is still a lot of chess to be played.

28.g5!± Qxf5 29.g6 Nd7?

After conducting a creative defense in a series of mind-boggling positions, Carl finally oversteps the bounds of playability.

It is logical to bring a piece back to the defense of the king, but unfortunately there are tactical issues.

Well, maybe not so unfortunate for Stephen. 29...Nd6 30.gxf7 Qf6±

30.Be4



Position after 30.Be4

Reaching a winning position again. But there were better moves, including 30.Rf2; and 30.gxf7.

30...Qh5 31.Rf2 f6 32.Qf1

Attacking the knight on c4 and threatening to take with the rook on f6. 32.g7+! is even better 32...Kg8 33.Bg6 Qe5 34.Re2



Position after 32.Qf1

32...Kg7

32...Nce5 requires White to find a lot of "only" moves 33.Rxf6+ Kg8 34.Rf7! Rf8 35.Qf4! Rae8 36.h4! Ba6 37.Rg5 Qh6 38.Nd5! cxd5? but all other moves are also losing 39.Bxd5 and despite Black's two extra pieces there is too much firepower raining down on his king, with discovered checks and passed pawns rearing their ugly heads.

33.Qxc4 Ne5 34.Qe6 Rf8 35.Qe7+

A crazy game.

Carl Haessler: Yes, it was a crazy game indeed. It nicely illustrates the battle between calculation and "feel".

1–0

Sadharth Bhaskaran (1824) –
Ethan Morehouse (1806) [E67]

Oregon Class Championships
Portland, OR (R5), November 5, 2023
[Ethan Morehouse]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0 0-0
5.c4 d6 6.d4 Nbd7 7.Nc3 e5 8.e3 c6 9.b3



Position after 9.b3

9...Qc7

9...Re8 is the typical plan which I had forgotten otb. 10.Bb2 e4 11.Nd2 d5

10.Bb2

10.Ba3 was the move I expected, and the plan was 10...Rd8 11.Rc1 Nf8. If he chose to close the center 12.d5 c5 13.Nd2 I evaluated here that although he controls the e4-square, my bishops would be easier to activate with ideas like ...Bf5, ...h5 and ...Bh6.

10...Ne8 11.b4 f5 12.c5 e4 13.cxd6 Nxd6
14.Qb3+ Kh8



Position after 14...Kh8

15.Nd2

15.Ng5 Nb6 16.Nh3 was another plan for White, I evaluated. It seemed better to me since the f4-knight will control more important squares in my position like d5 and e6.

15...Nb6 16.a4 Qf7 17.Rac1

17.Qxf7 Rxf7 18.a5 Nd5 19.Nxd5 cxd5
20.Rfc1 I evaluated as best since White gets control of the open file, though my minor pieces are currently in much better condition.

Page 10

17...Be6 18.Qc2 Nd5 19.Nxd5 Bxd5 20.
f3 Qe6 21.fxex4 fxe4 22.Rfe1 Rae8 23.
Ba3 b5 24.axb5 cxb5 25.Qd1 Rc8 26.
Qe2 Nc4 27.Nxc4 Bxc4 28.Qd2 Rc6
29.Red1 Qd5 30.Bb2 Rcf6 31.Qc2



Position after 31.Qc2

31...Rf2?

I wanted to play 31...Bh6 32.Re1 but couldn't come up with a plan. Ideally, I wanted to move the queen, but then there's issues with d5. Maybe I should've just waited with something like 32...Re8 and continued to slow play (32...Kg8! stepping out of the x-ray from the bishop 33.Bxe4 (33.Qxe4 Qxe4 34.Bxe4 Re8) 33...Qf7 34.d5 Bxe3+! 35.Kh1 (35.Rxe3?? Rf1+ 36.Kg2 Rf2+) 35...Bxc1 (35...Rf2 36.Qc3) 36.Bxf6 Qxf6 37.Rxc1 Unclear who is better here.)

32.Qxf2 Rxf2 33.Kxf2 Qh5 34.Re1
Qf5+ 35.Kg1 Qe6 36.Ra1 Qe7

I didn't see 36...a6, but I'm able to defend this pawn after 37.Ra3 Bh6 38.Rea1 Bd5 39.Bc1 (39.Rxa6 Bxe3+ 40.Kh1) 39...Bb7.

37.Bc3 Kg8 38.Ra3 Bh6 39.Bd2 Bd3

39...Bd5 40.Rea1 Qc7 41.Rc3 (41.Rxa7 Qc2) 41...Qb7 seems to defend a little better.

40.Rea1 Qc7 41.Rc3

41.Rxa7 Qc2 42.R7a2 White is winning, and the last attempt to complicate things would've been 42...Qxd2 43.Rxd2 Bxe3+ 44.Rf2! (44.Kh1?? Bxd2=)

41...Qb7

I had calculated this move when I thought of playing 39.Bd5, and automatically played this and immediately realized...

42.Rxd3

I could've resigned here since there is little to no counterplay in the position. I played on but went under five minutes, so I lost the notation. My opponent cleanly converted and ended up winning.

1-0

Zoey Tang (2329) –

Stephen Willy (2214) [D32]
Oregon Class Championships
Portland, OR (R5), November 5, 2023
[Stephen Willy]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5

Well I was hoping for a game that wasn't me getting outplayed very boringly.

4.cxd5 cxd4

She started taking time here, so I thought I had some hope of her messing up the theory.

5.Qa4+ Bd7 6.Qxd4 exd5 7.Qxd5 Nf6
8.Qd1 Bc5 9.e3

Oh well she didn't mess up theory, but this is still a decent position for Black.

9...0-0 10.Nf3 Nc6 11.a3?! Qc7

This is often the square you use for the queen in these positions, as it clears the way for the rooks to be on d8 and e8, and then a future Ne5 etc. It also helps that 12.b4 is tactically prevented by ...Nxb4.

12.Be2 Rad8 13.Qc2?! Ne5

And ...Ne5 happens.

14.0-0



Position after 14.0-0

14...Bd6

This was where I started my first think in the game. I had considered ...Nfg4 and ...Bc6 as well, and I feel like ...Bc6 was a good move here. 14...Bc6 15.Qf5 for some reason during the game I didn't like this move, but after ...Rfe8 I just have a bunch of development.

a) 15.Nd4 Stockfish starts suggesting some interesting lines 15...Nfg4 16.g3 Bxd4 (16...Rxd4 The computer also thinks becoming gothamchess for a moment isn't a bad idea either) 17.exd4 (17.Nb5 Bxb5 18.Qxc7 Bxe2 19.exd4 Nf3+ 20.Kg2 Nxd4 21.h4 Rc8 22.Qf4 Rc4 23.Qd6 This is the end of a very forcing computer line starting with Nb5) 17...Nf3+ 18.Bxf3 Bxf3;

b) 15.Rd1 is the much more calm variation where Black has equalized;

15...Rfe8; 14...Nfg4 15.Ng5. Somehow I missed this during the game, but it gets a bit interesting (I was calculating 15.Nxe5 during the game. 15...Qxe5 16.Bxg4 Bxg4 17.Qe4 (17.e4 a strange move, but the only way for White to get a slight edge) 17...Qxe4 18.Nxe4 I wasn't sure if the compensation here was good or not) 15...Nd3 16.g3 Bf5 17.Nce4 Nge5 18.Nxc5 Qxc5 19.Qxc5 Nxc5 20.b4 Nb3 21.Ra2 Nd3 Some long computer variation that feels pleasant for Black.

15.Nxe5?! Bxe5 16.f4

During the game, even though I saw this, I was quite frustrated with the endgame we got despite it being fine. Only White has winning chances, and I have to play accurately.

16...Bxc3 17.Qxc3 Qxc3 18.bxc3 Rfe8

Going for some ...Nd5 ideas.

19.Bf3

Probably analyzed 19.c4 during the game, but I don't remember what I thought. While analyzing this game it feels like my compensation, despite existing according to the engine, is rather unclear (Stockfish thinks I have a variety of options here that are good).

19...Bb5

Stockfish likes ...Bc6, but I wanted to stop c4 although I do have to consider the b7-pawn I guess. 19...Bc6 And again Stockfish has a variety of ideas, but I guess it wants to fight against the light-squared bishop.

20.Re1 Nd5

Threatening both ...Nxf4 and ...Nxc3 if White tries to give up the bishop-pair with Bxd5, I should be perfectly fine as White has a bunch of bad pawns as well as opposite-colored bishops.

21.Rb1

During the game I realized Zoey had e4 ideas to get rid of the bad e3-pawn, and that might give her a small advantage; instead of Rb1 indeed e4 is the best move. 21.Bxd5 Rxd5; 21.e4 Nxc3 22.e5 I am still fine though.

21...Nxc3 22.Rb2

Stockfish again really likes ...Bc6 for me, but my mind was rejecting that which didn't end up well. 22.Rb3 My guess is she thought she had this, but Rd3 is

problematic 22...Rd3

22...a6 23.Bxb7 f5?

Initially my idea was ...Nd5 and try and force the light-squared bishop to trade (like I said before if opposite-colored bishops are left I should be fine) however ...Nd5 fails to Rd2! and for some reason I missed Ne4 here with the same idea, and it actually works (I realized I had Ne4 just a move or two later and was frustrated with myself for missing it). 23...Ne4! 24.Rc2! Re7 25.Rc8! Rxc8 26.Bxc8 Rc7 27.Bf5 Bd3.

24.Bf3 Rd3 25.Rd2?! Red8

25...Rdxe3 26.Rxe3 Rxe3 27.Rd8+ Re8 28.Rxe8+ Bxe8 This endgame did not look enjoyable also knowing myself, it's the type of endgame I would play for another five hours and still manage to lose.

26.Rxd3 Rxd3 27.Bb2 Ne4??



Position after 27.Ne4

Clearly I am trying to let her win for no reason. During the game I realized Bd4 is quite annoying, and it indeed gives White a strong advantage of about 1.6 for White. The bishop on d4 with Rc1 Rc7 is quite annoying, and I have a light-squared bishop that couldn't help with the defense no matter how hard it tries because it's hopes and dreams can't change it into a dark-squared bishop, so because of that, I will proceed to be giving the rook a free meal of two pawns and then get destroyed by the two kingside pawns White has which will promote.

28.Be2

Of course I will clearly take on e3 and lose the game. All jokes aside I was very confused when she didn't play Bd4 in fact now this allows me to force trades which are good for me.

28...Rb3 29.Bxb5 axb5 30.Bd4 h5

This move will help in some lines where if the white rook tries to go to c7 and she

attempts to play h3 while her rook is on c1, she can't go Rc7 as I have ...h4 with hitting the knight on g3, and then mate ideas stop her from getting her rook active.

31.h4

Apparently, she doesn't want to get mated? Oh well might as well take on a3. Now there should be enough counterplay to make Rc1 Rc7 ideas not so powerful.

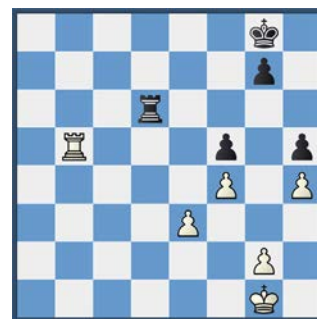
31...Rxa3 32.Rb1

32.Rc1 Kf7 33.Rc7+ Ke6 34.Rxg7 Rd3 and ...Rd1 with ...Nf2 is indeed enough compensation 35.Rh7 Rd1+ 36.Kh2 Nf2 and then with normal moves, the position is equal. But watch out about taking h5! 37.Rxh5 Rh1+ 38.Kg3 Ne4+ 39.Kf3 Rf1+ 40.Ke2 Ng3+ 41.Kd3 Nxh5.

32...Nd6 33.Bc5 Rd3 34.Bxd6

Yeah 34.Ra1 doesn't work either; I have a pretty decent position.

34...Rxd6 35.Rxb5



Position after 35.Rxb5

And now the position is dead drawn. I have no clue why she continued even after I proved I am not letting her get the e4-break in.

35...g6 36.Kf2 Kf7 37.g3 Rd2+ 38.Kf3 Rd3 39.Rb7+ Ke6 40.Rb6+ Kf7 41.Ke2 Ra3 42.Rd6 Ra1 43.Rd4 Ra3 44.Rd3

Trading rooks is a draw, but I couldn't calculate all that with both of us having low time (she had around five minutes, and I had about 1.5 minutes).

44...Ra2+ 45.Kf3 Ra4 46.Rd4 Ra3 47.Rb4 Rc3 48.Kf2 Rc2+ 49.Kf1 Rc3 50.Kf2 Rc2+ 51.Kf3 Rc3

And after what felt like the ten millionth draw offer by me in the rook endgame, she finally accepted (I did not want to sit there playing for another hour in a dead drawn endgame when there was a three-hour drive home).

1/2-1/2

2023 Washington Challenger's Cup

Josh Sinanan

The 2023 Washington Challenger's Cup, held October 28-29 at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle, was the largest ever, with 105 players in attendance! For comparison, the second largest Challenger's Cup was back in 2017 with 75 players hosted at the former Seattle Chess Club location in North Seattle. Apparently, the chess boom is not over just yet! No doubt the larger venue at Lakeside, which is quite spacious and can accommodate as many as 150 players, plays a big role.

As is the tradition for this event, the highest-finishing Washington State resident in the Open section seeds directly into the Championship section of the 2024 Washington State Championship, which is set to take place in Redmond next February. This year's Challenger's Cup also seeded the winner of the Reserve U1700 section into the Challengers section of the 2024 Washington State Championship, which now consists of five 10-player Round Robins by rating and seeding. The seed into the State Championship, along with the Open section being FIDE rated, typically attracts many strong players, seeking the coveted seed or just in search of a strong FIDE-rated tournament hosted locally.

This year's Open section was especially strong, with five masters in attendance: FM Tian Sang, FM Ryan Porter, NM Vikram Srivastava, LM Viktors Pupols, and NM Stephen Willy. Reigning Washington State Champion NM Brandon Jiang and the 2023 National Third Grade Champion Ted Wang also took part in the star-studded field. Chess players from throughout Washington State were represented in the two-section, five-round Swiss, including the cities of Redmond, Bellevue, Sammamish, Bothell, Tacoma, Mountlake Terrace, Kirkland, Snoqualmie, Brier, Ladysmith (BC), Shoreline, Camas, Portland, Renton, Duvall, Federal Way, Kingston, Issaquah, Medina, Beaverton, Fall City,

and Kenmore! The tournament was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by the WCF Dream Team of Vice President Rekha Sagar, FIDE National Arbiter Suresh Balaji, and Member-at-Large Ani Barua.

Two chess masters – FM Ryan Porter (4.5, 2252 → 2266) of Bellevue and Vikram Srivastava (4.5, 2205 → 2219) of Seattle – tied for first place in the Open section with 4.5 points apiece, each winning their first four games and drawing against each other in the final round. Along the way, Porter had to wade through a minefield of underrated juniors, facing Ted Wang (2108) and the red-hot Stephen Willy (2202). Porter narrowly defeated the wild Willy in a tricky rook and bishop vs rook endgame. Srivastava also had to tread carefully along his way to the shared title, as he vanquished the dangerous Vidip Kona and Bertrand Wan in rounds three and four, respectively.

When scheduling the future playoff between Porter and Srivastava to determine the seed into the 2024 Washington State Championship, Porter kindly declined the invitation citing family commitments. As such, the qualifier seed goes to Srivastava, who is most delighted to receive it! A quadruplet of chess prodigies tied for third/first U2100 a half-point back: NM Stephen Willy (4.0, 2202 → 2214) of Sammamish, Vihaan Jammalamadaka (4.0, 2039 → 2049) of Redmond, Bertrand Wan (4.0, 2027 → 2047) of Bellevue, and Eddie Chang (4.0, 2007 → 2010) of Bellevue. Three chess kings – Pratik Thorwe (3.5, 1856 → 1869) of Seattle, Vijay Patankar (3.5, 1756 → 1777) of Redmond, and Jan Buzek (3.5, 1695 → 1752) of Seattle – split the U1900 prize a half-point back.

The biggest upset win in the Open section was achieved by young Samarth Bharadwaj (361 points) of Sammamish. The best female prize was awarded to Saiya Karamali, who had a 1982 tournament performance rating. The best

dressed prizes in the Open section go to Haituka Anandkumar for Saturday and to Stephen Willy on Sunday.

In the Reserve U1700 section, fourth grader Dann Merriman (4.5, 1491 → 1542) of Duvall emerged victorious with an impressive 4.5 score, winning his last four games after starting with a half-point bye in the first round. Along the way, Dann vanquished his nearest rivals Noah Condit (1280) and Andy Chen (1269) in the final two rounds. For his victory, Dann is seeded directly into the Challengers section of the 2024 Washington State Championship. A trio of chess princes shared second/third/first U1500 honors with four points apiece: Andy Chen (4.0, 1269 → 1416) of Bellevue, Noah Condit (4.0, 1280 → 1359) of Kirkland, and Pranav Kokati (4.0, 1026 → 1254) of Redmond. Chen Yuan (3.0, 952 → 1085) of Redmond, Alexander Blue-Day (3.0, 967 → 1029) of Tacoma, and Lakshana Anand (3.0, 936 → 1010) of Redmond split the first U1300 Prize, each finishing on a “plus one” score. Aakash Mishra (2.5, 675 → 778), a fourth grader from Ella Baker Elementary School in Redmond, claimed the first U1100 Prize with an even score. Newcomer Hsiang-Ju Tang (2.0, unrated → 1028) of Camas earned the first Unrated prize a half-point back.

The biggest upset “win” in the Reserve U1700 section was achieved by Vivaan Vikram Wani (1.5, 836 → 796) of Bothell for his draw against a 488-point higher rated opponent. Andra Marinescu (3.5, 1429 → 1427) of Renton won the best female prize with a tournament performance rating of 1606. Last but certainly not least, the best dressed prizes in the Reserve U1700 go to Deeksha Shankaranand on Saturday and to Cedric Davies on Sunday.

Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic event!

Ryan Porter (2252) –
 Stephen Willy (2202) [A22]
 2023 Washington Challenger's Cup
 Seattle, WA (R4), October 28, 2023
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 e4 4.Ng5 c6

Forty years ago theory went something like 4...b5! 5.d3! (5.Nxb5 c6 6.Nc3 d5∞) 5...exd3 (5...bxc4 6.dxe4, if memory serves.) 6.cxb5 h6 7.Nf3±, though there are many other branches.

5.Qa4

This is all new for me, but I'd be tempted to play 5.Ngxe4 and claim I'd just picked up a center pawn. After 5...Nxe4 6.Nxe4 d5 7.cxd5 cxd5 8.Ng3 Black probably has some compensation with the modern idea 8...h5, when the g3-knight is still uncomfortable.

5...Qe7 6.Qc2 b5

The white queen went to a4, pinning the c-pawn in case of ...d5. The return to c2 is now justified because the c8-bishop is no longer defended: 6...d5 7.cxd5 cxd5?? 8.Nxd5 and Black collapses. Black could probably drum up some compensation with 7...Bf5 in this line instead.

7.cxb5

7.Ngxe4 Nxe4 8.Nxe4 bxc4∞

7...d5 8.e3 c5

I'm not sure how far the home preparation goes here, but clearly Black had other reasonable choices: 8...a6!?, 8...Qb7; and 8...h6, among others.

9.d3 h6 10.Nh3 Bb7

Completely different types of positions arise from 10...exd3 11.Bxd3 c4 (11...Bxh3 12.gxh3 Nbd7) 12.Be2 Bxh3 13.gxh3 Nbd7.

11.dxe4 d4?!

As a consequence of 10...Bb7, Black's best may be 11...dxe4, though after some natural moves such as 12.Be2 Nbd7 13.0-0 g5 14.a4± White keeps the extra pawn and has little to fear on the kingside.

12.Nd5! Nxd5 13.exd5 Bxd5?!

Lets the knight rejoin the action with tempo. 13...Nd7±

14.Nf4 Bb7 15.Qe2?!

15.Bc4±

15...Nd7 16.exd4 cxd4 17.Nd3 Qxe2+ 18.Kxe2

18.Bxe2 Bxg2 19.Rg1 Be4∞

2023 Washington Challengers Cup: Open										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prizes
1	1-2	FM Ryan W Porter	2290	W35	W64	W8	W3	D2	4.5	1st & 2nd
2		NM Vikram Srivastava	2205	W47	W28	W9	W5	D1	4.5	
3	3-6	CM Stephen Willy	2169	W48	W17	W6	L1	W7	4	3rd & 1st U2100
4		Eddie Chang	2024	D22	W39	H---	W38	W21	4	
5		Bertrand Wan	2021	W40	W32	W44	L2	W19	4	
6		Vihaan Jammalamadaka	2016	W41	W61	L3	W24	W14	4	
7	7-13	FM Tian Sang	2339	W34	W27	D26	W11	L3	3.5	
8		Ted Wang	2067	W37	W31	L1	D19	W33	3.5	1st U1900
9		Vidip Kona	2036	W38	W18	L2	W39	D13	3.5	
10		Leonid Gavrysh	2035	D21	L20	W59	W56	W37	3.5	
11		Pratik Thorwe	1898	W50	W63	H---	L7	W41	3.5	
12		Vijay Patankar	1793	D53	W59	W25	H---	H---	3.5	
13		Jan Buzek	1787	W54	D14	H---	W51	D9	3.5	Best Female Player
14	14-24	Oscar Sprumont	2059	W49	D13	H---	W20	L6	3	
15		Harishkumar Karthikeyan	1837	D24	W62	L19	W61	D22	3	
16		Nikhil Ramkumar	1823	W60	D25	D20	L21	W49	3	
17		Miles Kuipers	1807	W42	L3	H---	W57	D23	3	
18		Varnika Jammalamadaka	1770	W69	L9	D23	D42	W51	3	Best Female Player
19		Davey V Jones	1695	H---	W43	W15	D8	L5	3	
20		Siddharth Bhaskaran	1692	D45	W10	D16	L14	W46	3	
21		Ujwal Garine	1667	D10	D29	W66	W16	L4	3	
22		Saiya Karamali	1662	D4	H---	W31	H---	D15	3	
23		Neevan Reddy Saddi	1645	W46	L45	D18	W55	D17	3	Best Female Player
24		Rishi Ramaswamy	1515	D15	D56	W35	L6	W47	3	
25	25-43	LM Viktors Pupols-Petzal	2200	W36	D16	L12	W40	U---	2.5	
26		CM Ryan Min	2106	W57	W66	D7	U---	U---	2.5	
27		Isaac Vega	1893	W51	L7	L38	D49	W57	2.5	
28		Emerson Wong-Godfrey	1863	W58	L2	L41	W67	D36	2.5	Best Female Player
29		Edward Li	1841	D59	D21	H---	D36	H---	2.5	
30		Odbayar Yondon	1798	L61	L41	W70	W58	D38	2.5	
31		Michelle Zhang	1786	W67	L8	L22	W50	H---	2.5	
32		Christos Boulis	1773	W68	L5	H---	L37	W61	2.5	
33		Albert Eksarevskiy	1767	L39	D50	W60	W63	L8	2.5	Biggest Upset Win*
34		Abhinav Mishra	1765	L7	L51	W71	W52	D42	2.5	
35		Darsh Verma	1757	L1	W70	L24	W66	D39	2.5	
36		Gabriel Razmov	1704	L25	D60	W43	D29	D28	2.5	
37		Wade Suess	1691	L8	W67	D46	W32	L10	2.5	
38		Leonardo Wang	1685	L9	W69	W27	L4	D30	2.5	Biggest Upset Win*
39		Bental Tagor	1672	W33	L4	W64	L9	D35	2.5	
40		Sridhar Seshadri	1658	L5	W68	H---	L25	W55	2.5	
41		Michael Lin	1647	L6	W30	W28	H---	L11	2.5	
42		Don Hack	1486	L17	W48	H---	D18	D34	2.5	
43		Samarth Bharadwaj	1385	H---	L19	L36	W59	W56	2.5	Biggest Upset Win*
44	44-54	NM Brandon Jiang	2233	W55	W65	L5	U---	U---	2	
45		Austin Liu	2077	D20	W23	H---	U---	U---	2	
46		Valentin Razmov	1899	L23	W53	D37	D47	L20	2	
47		Aaron Ren	1704	L2	B---	H---	D46	L24	2	
48		Iris Zhang	1699	L3	L42	L67	W69	W63	2	Best Dressed
49		Nihanth Tatikonda	1691	L14	D54	W62	D27	L16	2	
50		Shuyi Han	1643	L11	D33	H---	L31	W67	2	
51		Aarav Bharathy Mohan	1604	L27	W34	W69	L13	L18	2	
52		Benjamin Frederick	1571	L65	D55	D54	L34	W68	2	
53		Haituka Anandkumar	1468	D12	L46	L55	D68	W66	2	Best Dressed
54		Devansh Sharma	1465	L13	D49	D52	H---	H---	2	
55	55-63	Chad Boey	1756	L44	D52	W53	L23	L40	1.5	
56		H G Pitre	1746	H---	D24	D61	L10	L43	1.5	
57		Sankalp Koppala	1694	L26	W71	D63	L17	L27	1.5	
58		Balbir Singh	1545	L28	H---	H---	L30	D62	1.5	Best Dressed
59		Bichen Liu	1516	D29	L12	L10	L43	W70	1.5	
60		Arush Yadlapati	1502	L16	D36	L33	H---	H---	1.5	
61		Yuchen Zhou	1481	W30	L6	D56	L15	L32	1.5	
62		Hong Xu	1447	H---	L15	L49	H---	D58	1.5	
63		Arnav Bablani	1360	B---	L11	D57	L33	L48	1.5	Best Dressed
64	64-69	Jamie Zhu	1890	W70	L1	L39	U---	U---	1	
65		Changhyung Kim	1883	W52	L44	U---	U---	U---	1	
66		Vijay Nallappa	1802	W71	L26	L21	L35	L53	1	
67		Miranda Meng	1433	L31	L37	W48	L28	L50	1	
68		Daniel Yates	1307	L32	L40	H---	D53	L52	1	Best Dressed
69		Austin Deng	unr.	L18	L38	L51	L48	W71	1	
70	70-71	Selina Cheng	1577	L64	L35	L30	D71	L59	0.5	
71		Rafael Palathingal	1484	L66	L57	L34	D70	L69	0.5	

18...Bd6

Now Black comes under serious pressure for most of the rest of the game. It seems better to avoid exchanges and try to take advantage of the exposed white king. 18...Be7 19.Bf4 Rc8[∞]

19.Bf4 Bxf4 20.Nxf4 0-0-0!?

20...g5 21.Nd3 Ke7[±]

21.f3 g5 22.Nd3 g4 23.fgx4

23.Kf2!?

23...Nf6 24.Nc5 Rhe8+?!

24...Nxc4[±]

25.Kd2 Re5 26.Rc1 Kb8 27.Bd3 Bgx2 28.Rhe1

28.Rhg1

28...Nxc4 29.Na6+ Ka8 30.Rg1 Ne3 31.Rc7 f5?!

31...Bd5

32.Nb4?!

Stronger options: 32.Rf7! Rc8 (32...Bd5 33.Nc7+ Kb8 34.Nxd5 Nxd5 35.Rgg7+-) 33.Rc1! Bb7 (33...Rxc1?? 34.Rf8+ Kb7 35.Rb8#) 34.Rxc8+ Bxc8 35.Rf8 Kb7 and the quiet move 36.Be2 seals things.; Also 32.Rg7! intending 32...Bb7 33.Rg8 looks winning.

32...Nd5 33.Rxa7+

33.Rc5!?

33...Kxa7 34.Nc6+ Kb6 35.Nxe5

35.Nxd8? Nf4[∞]

35...Nf4 36.Bxf5

36.a4 Re8 37.Re1[±]

36...Rd5 37.Re1 Rxb5 38.Nc4+ Kc5 39.b3 Bd5 40.Rf1 Bxc4

40...Ng2!?

41.bxc4

41.Rxf4! Bg8 42.Be4[±] with the idea 42...Ra5?? 43.Rf5+ and wins the bishop ending.

41...Rb2+ 42.Kc1

42.Bc2? Ng2 creates challenging complications.

42...Rxb2 43.Rxf4 Kxc4 44.Rf3 Kb4

44...h5

45.a3+ Kc5 46.Bc2 h5 47.Kb2 Kc4 48.a4 Rg2 49.a5?!

49.Rb3 retains the a-pawn, and looks like a theoretical win.

49...Kb5 50.Kb3

50.Rf5+ Kb4 51.Kc1 Rg3 52.a6 Ra3 and while White can certainly continue, it isn't clear how to manufacture progress from here. 53.Rf6 h4 54.Be4 h3 — Now what?

50...Kxa5 51.Rf5+ Kb6 52.Rxb5 Rd2 53.Be4 Kc7 54.Kc4 Kd6 55.Bd3 Ke6 56.Kxd4 Kf6 57.Rh6+ Kg7 58.Rd6 Rf2 59.Ke5 Kg8 60.Rd7



Position after 60.Rd7

60...Kh8??

Black seems to have headed straight for the dark-square corner. There is no such simple drawing rule in R+B vs R endings, and this is the losing blunder. Still drawing, theoretically, are 60...Rb2; and 60...Kf8, likely with ...Rb2 to follow. This ending is worth studying. White can (and should) continue to put pressure on the defense, and even Grandmasters are capable of losing this. There are two reliable drawing methods, the Cochrane and the second rank defense, and it's good to know both.

Perhaps I'll do a Coaching Corner on this ending. Like winning with queen versus rook, study of this pays dividends.

61.Bf5! Rg2 62.Rh7+! Kg8 63.Kf6! Rf2

In case you thought the win was now trivial, here is the most tenacious defense: 63...Kf8! 64.Ra7 Re2 65.Rb7 Re1 66.Rh7 Rg1 67.Bh3! Aha! No check on f1. 67...Rg3 68.Be6! Rf3+ 69.Bf5! Rg3 70.Rf7+! Kg8 (70...Ke8 71.Rc7 Note that d3 is controlled by the bishop.) 71.Rd7 Kh8 72.Rd4! (72.Rd2 Rg2! delays things a bit.) 72...Rg1 (72...Rg7 73.Bg6 (or 73.Rh4+ Kg8 74.Be6+) 73...Rg8 74.Rh4#) 73.Rh4+ Kg8 74.Be6+ Kf8 75.Rh8+ Rg8 76.Rxg8#

64.Rd7

1-0

Siddharth Bhaskarin (1742) –

Viktors Pupols (2200) [C02]

2023 Washington Challenger's Cup

Seattle, WA (R4), October 29, 2023

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.e5 f5

Very unusual, at least this early in the game. 3...c5 is a nearly universal choice against the Advance French.

4.Nf3 c5 5.Bb5+

5.c3 supports the pawn chain.

5...Nc6

For some reason Black isn't tempted to offer the exchange of his bad bishop with 5...Bd7.

6.Bxc6+?! bxc6 7.0-0 Nh6?!

Viktors chooses to be provocative. 7...cxd4 is perfectly fine for Black.

8.Bxb6 gxb6 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Nd4 0-0 11.c3 Qb6 12.b3?!

12.b4 Be7 (12...Bxd4 13.Qxd4 Qxd4



Stephen Willy (L) attempts to defend the tricky K+R vs. K+B+R endgame against Ryan Porter as the crowd looks on. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

14.cxd4 a5∞) 13.Nd2 a5 14.a3 c5 15.bxc5 Bxc5 16.N2f3∞ Stockfish evaluates this as about a half pawn in favor of White, but it's a little hard to see how White gets at the weak h-pawns. Meanwhile, Black has the bishop pair and play on the g-file.

12...Rf7 13.Re1 Bf8 14.Nd2 c5 15.N4f3

Knights can become passive when they guard each other. 15.Ne2 eyes f4 and reserves f3 for the other horse.

15...Rg7 16.Nf1 Bd7

16...d4! is an interesting gambit offer, certainly too dangerous to accept. 17.Ng3 (17.cxd4 cxd4 18.Qxd4? (18.Nxd4?? Rd7) 18...Bc5 19.Qb2 Bb7 20.Qe2 Kh8 21.Ng3 Rag8♣) 17...Bb7 Black is well-coordinated.

17.Ng3 Be8?!

Missing the tactic.

18.Nxf5! Rg6?

18...Rd7 19.Ng3±

19.Ng3?

Opportunity missed: 19.N3h4 Rg5 20.f4 Bh5 (20...Rh5 21.Qg4+ Kh8 22.Ng3) 21.Qd2 Rxf5 (21...Rg4 22.h3) 22.Nxf5±

19...Be7 20.Qd2 Bf7

20...Bc6

21.Qf4?! Rf8 22.Nh5??

22.Qd2∞

22...Rxxg2+! 23.Kxxg2 Bxxh5 24.Qxxh6

24.Qg3+ Kh8 25.Re3 Rg8+

24...Bxf3+ 25.Kh3 Rf7 26.Rg1+ Kh8 27.Rg3 Be4?!

27...Qd8! 28.Rag1 Be4

28.Rag1?!

28.Qh5 Bf5+ 29.Kg2 Rf8♣

28...Bf5+

28...Qd8 29.f3 Bf5+ 30.Kg2 Bh4

29.Kg2 Qd8 30.Kf1 Qf8 31.Rg8+?!

White's queen is not hanging, so there's no rush on this decision. 31.Ke1!? Qb8 32.Kd1 c4 33.Qh5 Qf8 34.bxc4 dxc4♣ is a bit murky.

31...Qxxg8 32.Rxxg8+ Kxxg8

We reach a very unusual material imbalance. This sort of thing is very much in Viktor's wheelhouse.

33.b4?! cxb4 34.cxb4 Bxb4 35.Qg5+ Kh8 36.Qd8+ Bf8 37.h4 h6 38.Ke2 Kg7 39.Qa5 Bg4+ 40.Ke3 Be7 41.Qa4



Sridhar Seshadri (L) vs Viktor's Pupols during their fourth round game. Just next to them, Leonid Gavrysh, playing White, takes on H.G. Pitre. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

h5 42.f4 Bxxh4 43.Qe8 Be7 44.Qb5 Bd8 45.Qb4 Bh4 46.Qb1 Bg3 47.a4

47.Qg1 Bxf4+ 48.Kd4 Bg5+

47...Rxf4 48.a5

48.Qb7+ Rf7 49.Qb8 (49.Qb4 Bxe5+; 49.Qb2 Rf3+ 50.Kd4 Bf2+) 49...h4

50.Qd8 Bf4+ 51.Kd4 Bf5 52.Qxxh4 Rc7, among other methods of execution.

48...d4+

Black will win the queen.

0-1

2023 Washington Challengers Cup: Reserve U1700										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prizes
1	1	Dann Merriman	1618	H---	W12	W21	W4	W3	4.5	1st
2	2-4	Pranav Kokati	1487	W31	W21	L4	W11	W10	4	2nd, 3rd & 1st U1500
3		Andy Chen	1481	W13	W23	W5	W7	L1	4	
4		Noah Condit	1456	X33	W26	W2	L1	W9	4	
5	5-8	Cedric Davies	1646	W25	W8	L3	D9	W16	3.5	Best Dressed
6		Alix Ogier	1526	D12	W29	H---	W13	D7	3.5	Best Female Player
7		Phil Long	1476	W18	W24	W16	L3	D6	3.5	
8		Andra Marinescu	1435	W14	L5	H---	W24	W20	3.5	
9	9-15	James Hamlett	1499	W28	W22	H---	D5	L4	3	1st U1300
10		Tai Shih	1443	D29	W15	H---	W27	L2	3	
11		Viraj Dhawan	1340	D16	W19	H---	L2	W26	3	
12		Luke Dale	1325	D6	L1	D30	W21	W27	3	
13		Chen Yuan	1294	L3	W32	W17	L6	W22	3	
14		Lakshana Anand	1193	L8	L17	W32	W25	W23	3	
15		Alexander Blue-Day	1126	D20	L10	H---	W29	W28	3	
16	16-19	Sid Siddem	1643	D11	W20	L7	W28	L5	2.5	1st U1100
17		Vilmos Foltenyi	1422	L26	W14	L13	W31	D18	2.5	
18		Vihaan Pai	1288	L7	D28	W19	D22	D17	2.5	
19		Aakash Mishra	955	H---	L11	L18	W34	W30	2.5	
20	20-27	Bei Shih	1431	D15	L16	H---	W30	L8	2	Best Dressed
21		Venu Koppala	1429	W34	L2	L1	L12	W31	2	
22		Stephan Shook	1423	W32	L9	H---	D18	L13	2	
23		Deeksha Shankaranand	1387	W30	L3	H---	D26	L14	2	
24		Kanav Shah	1354	W27	L7	D26	L8	H---	2	
25		Joshua Pantea	1348	L5	W34	L27	L14	W32	2	
26		Allen Chang	1256	W17	L4	D24	D23	L11	2	
27		Hsiang-Ju Tang	unr.	L24	W31	W25	L10	L12	2	1st Unrated
28	28-30	Sambhav Koppala	1307	L9	D18	W29	L16	L15	1.5	Biggest Upset "Win"
29		Edgar Li	1239	D10	L6	L28	L15	W34	1.5	
30		Vivaan Vikram Wani	837	L23	B---	D12	L20	L19	1.5	
31	31-32	Veronique Joseph	1303	L2	L27	W34	L17	L21	1	
32		Aaron Zhang	1104	L22	L13	L14	B---	L25	1	
33	33-34	Aahan Sriram	1275	F4	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	
34		Skandha Raj	1125	L21	L25	L31	L19	L29	0	

WA Junior Open & Reserve CHESS TOURNAMENT

Martin Luther King Day Monday, Jan. 15th, 2024

Interlake High School

16245 NE 24th St. Bellevue, WA 98008



CLASSICAL SECTIONS

Open 1500+, Reserve U1500

A 4-round G/50; +5 Swiss in two sections. Longer time control for Intermediate to Advanced players. Players rated 1400+ may play up into Open section for an additional \$20. Dual NWSRS and US Chess Rated; US Chess membership required. Rounds: 9:15am, 11:15am, Lunch Time, 1:30pm, 3:30pm. Awards ~ 5:45pm. Armageddon playoff if needed to break tie for 1st Place in Open section immediately following the last round: G/10 white, G/8 black with draw odds.

RAPID SECTIONS

K-1 U700, K-3 U800, K-8 U900 K-12 U1200, K-3 Open, 4-12 Open

A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss in five sections. Shorter time control for players of all levels. Rounds: 9:15am, 10:45am, Lunch Time, 12:45pm, 2:15pm, 3:45pm. Awards ~ 5:15pm.

ALL SECTIONS

NWSRS Rated. Open, Reserve U1500, and U1200 sections are also US Chess rated, which requires clocks, notation, and US Chess membership. The U700, U800, and U900 sections don't require clocks or notation, but a clock set for 10 minutes + 5 sec. increment will be placed in unfinished games after 35 minutes of play. All equipment is provided by WCF.

ELIGIBILITY Open to all juniors under age 21 years of age as of the tournament date. Out-of-state players welcome!

ENTRY FEE \$45 by Jan. 8th, \$55 after. Room for 320 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards awarded in each section:
1st – 10th: \$65-\$60-\$55-\$50-\$45-\$40-\$35-\$30-\$25-\$20.

Team Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards awarded to the top 4 players from the top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections:
1st – 5th: \$30-\$25-\$20-\$15-\$10.

Special Prizes (per section): Medals for first-time players, best female player (by TPR), and biggest upset win.

RATING

Highest of January US Chess Regular or current NWSRS rating used to determine section and pairings.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

THE DETAILS

Online Registration:

NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/
Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal.

100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Sun. Jan 14th @ 5:00pm. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Unpaid players by the deadline will be withdrawn from the tournament.

Highest finishing WA resident in the Open section seeds into the Premier section of the 2024 WA State Championship, and the Closed section of the 2025 WA Junior Invitational.

This event is a qualifier for the WA State Elementary Championship on May 4, 2024, in Kennewick. Players scoring 2.5+ points in the 4-round sections or 3.0+ points in the 5-round sections will qualify for State.

Pizza lunch and other concessions will be available for purchase on site.

Questions? Contact Rekha Sagar, rekha4chess@gmail.com or WCF President Josh Sinanan, washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com
Cell: 206.769.3757

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC

CHESS TOURNAMENT

President's Day Monday, February 19th, 2024

Chinook Middle School

2001 98th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



DUAL-RATED

SECTIONS

K-2 Open, 3-12 U1200,

3-6 Open, 7-12 Open

A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss. For advanced beginner to advanced players. Dual Northwest and US Chess Rated. US Chess membership required. **Clocks and notation required.** All equipment is provided.

NW-ONLY SECTIONS

Kindergarten, 1-2 U700,

3-4 U700, 5-12 U900

A 5-round G/30 Swiss. For novice to intermediate players. Northwest rated only. US Chess membership not required. No clocks used from the start, but a 10-minute clock with 5-sec increment will be placed into unfinished games after 35 minutes of play.

SCHEDULE

Rounds: 9:15am, 10:45am, Lunch Time, 12:30pm, 1:45pm, 3:00pm. Awards presentation ~ 4:30pm or asap.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades K-12. Out-of-state players welcome!

ENTRY FEE

\$45 by Feb. 12th, \$55 after. Room for 250 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Amazon e-gift cards awarded in each section:

1st – 10th: \$65-\$60-\$55-\$50-\$45-\$40-\$35-\$30-\$25-\$20.

Team Prizes: Plaques awarded to the top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections.

Special Prizes (per section): Medals for first-time players, best female player (by TPR), and biggest upset win.

RATING

Higher of US Chess February regular or current NWSRS rating used to determine section and pairings.

THE DETAILS

100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Sun. Feb. 18th @ 5:00pm. Unpaid players by the deadline will be withdrawn from the tournament.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

This event is a **qualifier for the WA State Elementary Championship** on May 4, 2024, in Kennewick. Players scoring 3.0+ points will qualify for State.

Online Registration:

NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/
Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

Pizza lunch and other concessions will be available for purchase on site.

Questions?

Contact Rekha Sagar, WCF Vice President: rekha4chess@gmail.com or Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757, washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

A Conversation with Super GM Liem Le

Family, Balance, and A Sense of Purpose

Ken Lee

A few days prior to the Susan Polgar Tournament held this November 24-25 in Bellevue, Washington, I had the opportunity to chat with Super GM Liem Le via Zoom from his home office, in St. Louis, Missouri.

As a special bonus, I also was fortunate to attend Liem Le's Q&A session during the tournament where he outlined his three principles of chess.

Liem's meteoric rise in the competitive chess world is well documented but here are just a few highlights.

* Born in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in 1991.

* Started playing chess at six with his older brother Long (eight) after discovering an old chess book written in Vietnamese.

* Through the support of his family, he was able to train and compete in national tournaments at a young age.

* His parents supported him throughout his chess career by locating the best coaches available in the country.

* In his teens, his parents helped secure government support which allowed him to train and compete internationally.

* Liem became the top chess player in Vietnam at an early age and eventually earned his GM at 15 years of age. (2006)

* Took two gap years in 2009-2010 to travel and compete.

* Liem broke 2700 ELO in 2011.

* Liem received a scholarship to Webster University after winning the SPICE CUP in 2012.

* Graduated Summa Cum Laude from Webster University in 2017. BS in Finance and BA in Management.

* Upon Susan Polgar's retirement in 2021, Liem became the Director of SPICE & Head Coach of Chess Team at Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri.

* Liem is currently ranked 20th in the world as of November 2023.

Ken: You have been a top competitive player and achieved GM status at the young age of 15. What contributed to your success at such a young age?

Liem Le: I started playing chess at six years of age. My older brother Long was my first chess coach. I distinctly remember the day that we found an old Vietnamese chess book. At the time, chess was not very popular in Vietnam. But there was something about the game that made me fall in love with it. While I do think I had some innate ability for the game, I must credit my family and my coaches for my early success in chess. For example, my family didn't know anything about chess, but wanted to support me because they saw how much I loved the game. They also saw it as a healthier alternative to video games.

The only thing that they made me promise was that I didn't give up my studies in school. The one time they disciplined

me was when I didn't complete my chess puzzles which were assigned to me as part of my chess homework. My parents immediately pulled me from chess lessons for a while and that definitely got my attention! My parents were teaching me an important life lesson. If you are going to pursue something, do it with a sense of purpose.

Ken: As a young student of chess who were your chess mentors growing up?

Liem Le: My parents helped find the best Vietnamese coaches early on in my career. As I continued my growth, my parents and coaches started searching for other coaches outside of the country to help me. In Vietnam, the government supports all sports. My parents were instrumental in securing government support to help defray the costs of training and travel as I got older. Thanks to this support, I had the fortunate opportunity to work with GM Evgeny Bareev and GM Alexander Khalifman for several weeks in 2010 and 2011. This improved my skills and eventually helped me break into the elite level of 2700+ FIDE rating.

Ken: How did you keep motivated to study and compete in your early years?

Liem Le: Every time I hit a milestone, in a tournament or an ELO rating, I set up my goals a little higher.

I was motivated to continue to improve, learn and not get discouraged. My brother Long, used to help me with my studies, because I had to also keep up with my academics at the same time. Of course, this was before remote learning. I think the balance was important because it always gave me options to consider. My parents said "you must finish your

academic studies no matter what. This is your top priority over chess.”

Ken: You’ve noted that you think chess should be taught in schools. Please let me know why you think this would be a good idea and how it might be implemented?

Liem Le: Chess certainly helped me with my academic career. Chess taught me to prioritize, develop time management skills, and practice deep focus. In America, I think it would be difficult to implement a mandatory chess program, but I do think young people should be encouraged to play chess at a young age. The type of independent critical thinking that chess fosters is a big asset to any young person. Kids can learn so much by playing chess even if they decide that chess is not going to be a career path for them.

Ken: You are now the chess coach for the Webster University. How did this opportunity come up?

Liem Le: In 2012, I was invited to participate in a chess tournament at Webster University, where Susan Polgar founded the SPICE Program in the same year. After the tournament, I was offered a full-ride scholarship to Webster. I decided that if I wanted to continue to grow as a chess player and pursue my academics, I should move to the USA. In hindsight, this was possible only because I followed my parents’ advice to finish high school four years ago. Again, it was about balance. After I graduated from Webster in 2017, I stayed in St. Louis to pursue my chess career. When Susan and her husband Paul Truong retired in summer 2021, I was offered the opportunity to take over for them. I did not hesitate to accept that offer because I wanted to help the next generation of Webster students and chess players to reach their full potential.

Ken: What’s it like to switch gears and move from player to coach?

Liem Le: As a player, I have to take full responsibility for every decision that I make. For example, I have to decide which tournaments to enter, how to play, and more. As a coach, I have to think of the players’ needs first. I have to switch hats and think about my students’ needs and what would be in the best interest of their personal journey. Fortunately, I had coached privately before. As the Webster team grew, I had to learn how to coach an

entire group of students and get them to operate as a team. It’s been a wonderful experience for me.

Ken: As a player who experienced success at an early age, what advice do you give young players who are just starting out in the tournament circuit?

Liem Le: For young people, I think the most important thing is just to support their love of the game. A good coach is someone who communicates well with kids and keeps the game fun. A good coach doesn’t let that love of the game ever diminish. It’s not necessary for a young person to have a GM as a coach because it’s not about results. Actually, I tell parents, kids and young coaches not to focus on results and ratings. I think it’s about fostering the love of the game and keeping their life in balance. For chess players, who are trying to progress from a rating of 1000 to 2000, I think it’s most important for them to concentrate on calculations and end games. It’s only much later that they need to concern themselves with learning dozens of different openings.

Bonus Section

Liem Le’s Three Principles of Chess

What’s the best way for any chess player to improve?

Chess is a competitive game and, I think, it’s important for players to remember that the object of the game is to win. It’s okay if you want to play casually, but the best players play over the board often and with the intent to win every time.

What are the psychological aspects of the game?

In chess, you lose a lot. It’s perfectly acceptable for you to feel bad for a short period of time, but you must learn to move forward after a defeat and think of it as a lesson. When I lose a game, I take the time to analyze my game carefully. I

also ask my coaches for game analysis as well. When it comes to playing up, it’s a good attitude to develop of not being intimidated by anyone despite their age or rating. Just play your best game possible.

Chess is a life- long journey of learning.

If you think that chess is something you really want to pursue, then you have to understand that it takes time and commitment over a long period of time. For me, I started creating small incremental goals for myself. They were ambitious but realistic. But, even as a very young person, I knew that I was responsible for my own growth – I had to earn it by working hard and studying the game with passion. Even 2700 ELO players still take the time to continuously study and improve all the time.

Ken: What do you think is the future for chess ?

Liem Le: We are in a golden age of chess. There are so many people playing both competitively and for fun. Interest in the game has probably never been higher.

Ken: What about the large number of kids who drop out of chess after a few years on the tournament circuit?

Liem Le: I actually don’t worry about the kids who drop out because I feel that the benefits of chess, even if it’s played for a short period of time, can last a lifetime. People can always come back to it, whenever they want. Chess will always be here. When I was younger, you could only make a living in chess as a player or a coach. Now, there are many more opportunities. For example, now people can make a living publishing chess books or courses, blogging about chess, doing podcasts, working as a chess streamer, or developing software code to support chess communities. The world has really blossomed for chess and that’s a good thing.

Liem Le continues to be supported by his family and always strives to find balance in his life. In Bellevue, he attended this tournament with his brother IM Long Le and his sister-in-law WIM Penny Pham.



GM Liem Le. Photo credit: Ken Lee.

Washington Winter G/60 Championship



Saturday, January 20th, 2024

Lakeside Upper School

14050 1st Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125

Contact: Josh Sinanan,
WCF President, 206-769-3757
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.
Online registration and payment
deadline @ 5pm on Friday,
January 19, or else register at
site. Pay by
Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

Byes: One half-point bye
available; if interested, request
before end of round 2.

Format: A 4-Round Swiss in two sections:
Premier & Challengers U1600.

Time Control: G/60; +5 sec. increment.

Entry Fee: \$40 if postmarked or online by 1/13, \$50 by
1/19, \$60 at-site. \$10 play-up fee for those rated 1500+
wanting to play in Premier section. Free entry for GMs,
IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

Schedule: At-site registration: Sat. 9-9:45am.
Rds: 10 AM, 1 PM, 4 PM, 7 PM. Awards ~ 9:30 PM or asap.

Prize Fund: \$1,300 (based on 60 paid entries).
Premier: 1st-3rd: \$200, \$170, \$140. 1st U1900/U1700: \$100
Challengers U1600: 1st-3rd: \$150, \$120, \$90.
1st U1500/U1300/U1100: \$60. 1st Unrated: \$60.

Eligibility: Open to all junior +
adult players.

Memberships: Current US
Chess and WCF
membership/Northwest Chess
subscription required.
Memberships must be paid at
time of registration.

Rating: Dual NWSRS + US Chess
Rated. Higher of January US
Chess regular or current NWSRS
rating will be used to determine
pairings and prizes.

WASHINGTON PRESIDENT'S CUP



SAT-SUN, FEBRUARY 24-25TH, 2024

LAKESIDE UPPER SCHOOL

14050 1ST AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98125

Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open section seeded into the 2025 Washington State Championship – Invitational section.

Format: A 5-round Swiss in two sections:

Washington (1600+): NWSRS, US Chess & FIDE Tri-Rated.

Lincoln U1600: NWSRS & US Chess Dual-Rated.

Schedule: Saturday 10 AM, 1 PM, 6 PM; Sunday 10 AM, 3:30 PM. Closing Ceremony: Sunday ~ 7:30pm or asap. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

Time Control: Rd. 1: G/60; +15. Rds. 2-5: 40/100, SD/30, +15. Late default: 60 min.

Prize Fund: \$3,500 (based on 100 paid entries)

Washington: 1st-6th: \$450-375-300-225-150-125.
1st U2000/U1800: \$100

Lincoln: 1st-4th: \$325-250-175-125.
1st U1400/U1200/U1000: \$100; 1st Unrated: \$70

Special Prizes (per section): **Biggest Upset Win:** \$10/round, **Best Female Player** (by TPR): \$25, **Best Dressed:** \$20/day, **Best Senior Players** (50+ & 65+, by TPR): \$25, **Biggest USCF Rating Gain:** \$25, **Best Annotated game:** \$25. Minimum of 3 qualifying players per section for best female/senior player to be awarded.

Entry Fee: \$70 by 2/17, \$80 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs & WIMs. Players rated 1400+ (in both NWSRS + USCF) may pay an extra \$40 play-up fee to play in Washington section. Maximum of 150 players – please register early to reserve your spot.

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration.

Byes: Two half-point byes available. If interested, request before end of round 2.

Rating: US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Washington section is also FIDE Rated. Higher of February US Chess Regular or current NWSRS rating used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. If ratings differ by >200 pts., the avg. of current NWSRS and Feb. US Chess regular rating will be used.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration
Registration and payment **deadline: Fri. 2/23 @ 5pm.**
Payment via Zelle/PayPal (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com) or Venmo (ID: @WAChess) available.

In case of a tie for 1st place, a future follow-up playoff match will determine the seed for the Invitational section of the 2025 Washington State Championship.

Info/Entries: Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation
c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 4174 148th Ave. NE,
Building I, Ste. M, Redmond, WA 98052

Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

2023 Challenger's Cup Scholastic

Josh Sinanan

The 2023 Challenger's Cup Scholastic chess tournament was held on Saturday, November 4, at Chinook Middle School in Bellevue. Chinook is located atop Clyde Hill and conveniently accessible from the 520 freeway. There's definitely no shortage of chess activity in the area, especially considering Medina Elementary about a mile away which has a chess club of 170 kids! A total of 152 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 participated from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including 28 from just Medina Elementary! Other schools bringing sizable contingents of players included Open Window (8), Bellevue Children's Academy (5), Ben Rush (5), Fernwood (5), Chestnut Hill Academy (4), Jing Mei (4), Kokanee (4), and Somerset (4).

The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Community Outreach Liaisons Shri Humrudha and Suresh Balaji with assistance from WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, high school chess stud Kai Pisan, WCF Women's and Girl's Chess Director Chouchan Airapetian, and Chess Mom Gelareh Golanbar. Amazing photos were taken throughout the day by Ani, Chouchan, and WCF Tournament Valentin Razmov. The five-round Swiss format featuring a time control of game in twenty-five minutes with a five-second increment appealed to both novice players and seasoned veterans alike. To ensure competitive balance for players of all ages and levels, the tournament was split into five sections: K-1 U800, 2-3 U800, K-3 Open, 4-8 U1000, and 4-12 Open.

Several side activities we also featured throughout the day to provide entertainment for parents and kids alike during the rainy day of chess. Face painter extraordinaire Gabby Carrillo was on-site for a few hours providing kids (and parents) with her amazing face painting designs! Local Magician Rich Waters stopped by for a few hours during lunch hour to perform some close-up magic tricks and balloon twisting on the stage next to the parent waiting area. Finally,

local fifth grader Apollo Yen set up his Half Price Bricks table to transform old, used Legos sitting in storage bins into newly packaged sets with which another child can fall in love. Needless to say, there was plenty to do at Chinook besides playing chess during that rainy Saturday in early November!

Congratulations to the courageous chess warriors who participated, eighteen for whom it was their first ever chess tournament! Our vibrant chess community continues to thrive as we kick off the start of the new scholastic chess season. Special recognition is due to our Amazon Gift Card prize winners:

Challenger's Cup Scholastic Prizes

Individual Prizes - Amazon Gift Card Prizes awarded in each section.

1st \$70, 2nd \$60, 3rd \$50, 4th \$40, 5th \$30.

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
K-1 U800			Dhruv Bangard Skyler Qin Aria Ajay Yuwen Qu Ayaansh Agrawal		
2-3 U800	Rachit Shah			Alice Li Derek Huang Satvik Verma Aadya Karanam	
K-3 Open	Terrick Evin - Wins free entry into 2023 SPFNO!	Sambuddha Sekhar Das Yugo Bandai		Adith Vijay	Leonid Zandanov Elijah Edwin Lewis Ma Harvey Wang Hengsheen Wang Jizhou He David Pan Julian Chen
4-8 U1000	Abhay Lizon			Hanson Li Benjamin Olson Isaac Friedenson Devin Wang	
4-12 Open	Rhadean Rubaiyat - Wins free entry into 2023 SPFNO!			Aadi Hetamsaria Bichen Liu Dheeran Koripella Rian Raja Yang Xu	

Special Prizes (per section): Medals for first-time players, best female player, and biggest upset win.

Top player (by TPR) in each of the K-3 Open and 4-12 Open sections wins free entry into the 2023 SPFNO!

Section	Best Female Player	Biggest Upset Win
K-1 U800	Edda Wang	Vihaan Nair
2-3 U800	Siana Razmov Vivienne Luo Luna Lin Oas Mittal	Emma Li
K-3 Open	Alisa Rachiba	Kyle Jiang
4-8 U1000	Allison Deng Ella Lo Adrina Berjjs	Manya Srivastava
4-12 Open	Niharika Vutukuri	Priyadarshi Lahiri



The Inland Classic

February 24 – 25, 2024

Presented by the Spokane Chess Club

Location: Lakeland Junior High

15601 N. Highway 41, Rathdrum, ID

I-90 to Exit 7 Post Falls, ID. Head north on Highway 41 (10 minutes) to Rathdrum

Registration: via telephone or email only; **CLOSES** 10 pm February 22, 2024.

Rounds: 10-2:30-7; 9-1:30 or ASAP. **Time control:** G/115, d5. **Entry fee:** \$30 adults, \$25 under 19. Telephone and email entries accepted (can pay at door – cash or check only). All registrants must check in by 9:40 unless a first-round bye was granted.

\$1750 GUARANTEED prize fund. Class prizes based on at least 5 per class; classes may be reconfigured if less than five class entries. Only one prize per player (excluding biggest upset). NS, NC, W. One ½-point bye available if requested by end of round 3. Director reserves the right to use class pairings in final round.

PRIZES

FIRST -- \$400

SECOND -- \$270

THIRD -- \$150

Class Prizes: Top Expert \$100

\$100 first, \$70 second: A; B; C; D & under/unrated.

Biggest Upset prizes: \$100 & \$50 (non-provisional ratings).

Entries: Spokane CC, c/o Kevin Korsmo N. 9923 Moore, Spokane, WA 99208-9339.

For information or to enter please call (509) 270-1772 or write kmkorsmo@comcast.net

Check website for updates: www.spokanechessclub.org

Inaugural Veterans Day Open

Josh Sinanan

On Veterans Day, Saturday November 11, the Seattle Chess Club, Washington Chess Federation, and Puget Sound VA Chess Club teamed up to co-host the inaugural Veterans Day Open at El Centro de la Raza, a multicultural center located in the Beacon Hill neighborhood of Seattle. The venue was located adjacent

to the Beacon Hill Light rail station, which made it a convenient and easily accessible location for adult chess players from far and wide.

A robust number of nearby coffee shops and food options offered players and spectators many choices for recharging between rounds. A fantastic

turnout 101 adult chess players of all levels from novice to master participated from throughout the Pacific Northwest, from cities including Everett, Lake Stevens, Dupont, Snoqualmie, Kirkland, Tacoma, Mukilteo, Chehalis, Marysville, Tulalip, Seattle, Renton, Auburn, Lacey, Sammamish, Silverdale, Lynnwood, Shelton, Des Moines, Brier, Bothell, Shoreline, Tenino, Bellevue, Edmonds, Kent, Edgewood, Gig Harbor, Tamuning (GU), Buckley, Redmond, Fremont (CA), Spokane, Federal Way, University Place, and Oak Harbor! The event was organized by VA Puget Sound Chess Club President Olin Martin with support from Seattle Chess Club President John Selsky, WCF President Josh Sinanan, and WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua.

Special thanks to Tim Dalton and his team from Fast Signs for designing all the amazing signage and chess posters featured throughout the playing hall. Meiling Cheng, our event photographer and videographer, went above and beyond to produce some amazing photos and video footage capturing key moments of the rapid and blitz games alike. We'd also like to thank Raphael Neff from Chess House for the generous chess equipment donation, including a customized wooden chess board for the top-scoring Veteran! Special recognition goes to Dr. Reddy and his family for their support in helping us secure a site for this event when original plans to host it at the VA Medical Center fell through. The Veterans Day Open came to fruition thanks to the vision and leadership of one man—Olin Martin—who worked tirelessly to make it all happen. Many thanks to all the players, volunteers, and tournament staff who came out and supported this event. We were blown away by the fantastic turnout and hope to make the Veterans Day Open even bigger and better next year!

The day-long chess event featured an intense schedule of five rapid games in one

Veterans Day Open: Open

#	Name	Rating	Cls	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot	Prize
1	Vinesh Ravuri	2320		W22	W5	W9	W14	W2	5	1st - \$600
2	Siddarth M. Sundaram	2462		W30	W17	W3	W8	L1	4	=2nd/3rd: \$225 each
3	Timur Aliyev	2305		W23	W12	L2	W11	W14	4	=2nd/3rd: \$225 each
4	Ryan W Porter	2251		W24	W21	L8	W19	W12	4	=2nd/3rd: \$225 each
5	Michael Adarlo	2108	V	W7	L1	W18	W9	W8	4	=2nd/3rd: \$225 + Top Veteran
6	William J Schill II	2273		H---	W27	L14	W25	W19	3.5	
7	Konrad Goc	1491		L5	X37	D28	W29	W13	3.5	1st U1700 - \$200
8	Tian Sang	2352		W15	W11	W4	L2	L5	3	
9	Daniel Shubin	2173		W18	W13	L1	L5	W20	3	
10	Michael S Oshiro	2137		W32	L14	W30	L13	W24	3	
11	Bayram Turapov	2120		W25	L8	W16	L3	W26	3	
12	Pranav Senthilkumar	2083		W31	L3	W24	W17	L4	3	
13	Leonid Gavrysh	1990		W34	L9	W26	W10	L7	3	
14	Andrew Fletcher	1890		W35	W10	W6	L1	L3	3	
15	Kenneth Severson	1781		L8	L25	W31	W32	W27	3	
16	Te Wei	1629	F	H---	H---	L11	W34	W25	3	
17	Matt Wilber	2136		W33	L2	W23	L12	D18	2.5	
18	Eli Williams	1617		L9	W35	L5	W30	D17	2.5	
19	George Garest	unr.	V	D29	W36	W20	L4	L6	2.5	2nd Top Veteran
20	Franz Keller	unr.		D36	W29	L19	W28	L9	2.5	
21	Jonathan Molod	2014		W26	L4	L25	L24	W29	2	
22	Gilbert B Lomboy	1757	V	L1	L26	W33	L27	W32	2	
23	Chad Boey	1756		L3	W31	L17	L26	W33	2	
24	Daniel Aisaka	1624		L4	W34	L12	W21	L10	2	
25	George Oliver	1528		L11	W15	W21	L6	L16	2	
26	Christopher Pleasants	1428		L21	W22	L13	W23	L11	2	Tied 1st U1500: \$100
27	Walter Guity	1333		W28	L6	L29	W22	L15	2	Tied 1st U1500: \$100
28	Roger Hanson	2000		L27	W32	D7	L20	---	1.5	
29	Rogelio Zaragoza	1894		D19	L20	W27	L7	L21	1.5	
30	Hillel Shirman	1819		L2	W33	L10	L18	D31	1.5	
31	Steve Beltran III	1460		L12	L23	L15	B---	D30	1.5	
32	Ralph Anthony	1580		L10	L28	W35	L15	L22	1	
33	William Dann	1547		L17	L30	L22	W35	L23	1	
34	Juergen Werner	1268	V	L13	L24	B---	L16	L35	1	
35	Koby Portes	unr.		L14	L18	L32	L33	W34	1	
36	Rich Lavoice	1865		D20	L19	---	---	---	0.5	
37	Paul Lazarte	1773		U---	F7	---	---	---	0	

day, each spaced an hour and 15 minutes apart with a short break for lunch between rounds two and three. The field was split evenly between three sections, with 37 players in the Open, 41 in the Reserve U1400, and 28 in the Rising (unrated) section. A generous donation from Olin's friend Joanne, who works for Netflix, provided a substantial \$5,400 guaranteed prize fund despite the affordable entry fee structure of \$35 for adult non-Veterans, \$20 for college students, and free entry for Veterans.

The event was open to all adults 18+, which made for a pleasant and quiet atmosphere and fostered a type of camaraderie between fellow adult chess players that is rarely seen in events where there are kids around. Besides the main tournament, which was played as a five-round rapid Swiss with a time control of G/15;+10, the event also featured a challenging Mate in two puzzle raffle competition, and a free seven-round blitz tournament in the evening. Top-finishing players and prize winners were honored in an awards ceremony around 5 PM just after the last round. Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic event. We look forward to hosting more Veterans Day Opens in the years to come!

Veterans Day Open: Reserve U1400

#	Name	Rtng	Cls	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot	Prize
1	George Michailov	1184		W38	W17	W7	W19	W3	5	1st - \$400
2	Ryan Barquest	unr.		W24	D20	W12	W4	W9	4.5	2nd - \$350
3	Jim Huang	1232		W22	W32	W9	W6	L1	4	Tied 3rd/U1300: \$250
4	Artin Tajdini	1059		W40	W18	W20	L2	W19	4	Tied 3rd/U1300: \$250
5	Benjamin A Jarrell	unr.		W21	L7	W24	W11	W13	4	
6	Christian Ian Catayas	unr.	V	W25	W12	W10	L3	W14	4	Top Veteran
7	Jeffrey M Burgert	1338		W35	W5	L1	D8	W15	3.5	
8	Matthew Duran	947	V	W33	L10	W18	D7	W20	3.5	1st U1100 - \$200 + 2nd Top Veteran
9	Daniel Lopez	1360		W30	W14	L3	W27	L2	3	
10	Vahe Gul	1343		W31	W8	L6	L15	W29	3	
11	Steve Shuman	1310	V	W16	W23	L19	L5	W30	3	
12	Kyle Boddy	1285		W37	L6	L2	W35	W31	3	
13	Max McCall	1204		H---	H---	W29	W23	L5	3	
14	Isaac Woodson	1028	V	W41	L9	W35	W17	L6	3	
15	Jack Dunham	938		L18	W39	W32	W10	L7	3	
16	Will Clausen	511		L11	W26	L21	W34	W25	3	
17	Alexander Alvarado	unr.		W27	L1	W25	L14	W24	3	
18	Takoda Baltunis	unr.	V	W15	L4	L8	W28	W27	3	
19	Andrew Goupinets	unr.		W29	W34	W11	L1	L4	3	
20	Austin Wentz	1318		W36	D2	L4	W31	L8	2.5	
21	Sean Coburn	1110	V	L5	L35	W16	D22	W34	2.5	
22	Shenghao Qin	unr.		L3	L28	W26	D21	W35	2.5	
23	Misganaw Chekole	unr.		W26	L11	W28	L13	H---	2.5	
24	Lebron Sims	997	V	L2	W36	L5	W32	L17	2	
25	Brooks Carlston	989		L6	W37	L17	W40	L16	2	
26	Alexander Blue-Day	988		L23	L16	L22	W37	W40	2	
27	Christian Jordan	966		L17	W38	W33	L9	L18	2	
28	Matthew McKendry	948		L32	W22	L23	L18	W41	2	
29	Shen Gong	868		L19	W41	L13	W33	L10	2	
30	Nathaniel Walker	823	V	L9	L33	W38	W41	L11	2	
31	Ross Cubbon	785		L10	W40	W34	L20	L12	2	
32	Alexander Young	unr.		W28	L3	L15	L24	W38	2	
33	Jose Vespucci	unr.		L8	W30	L27	L29	W36	2	
34	Jeff Klink	1100		W39	L19	L31	L16	L21	1	
35	Jeffrey Dunaway Jr	763		L7	W21	L14	L12	L22	1	
36	Thomas Cadwallader	711		L20	L24	L40	B---	L33	1	
37	Sam Hunt	509	V	L12	L25	B---	L26	---	1	
38	Ryan Norman	unr.		L1	L27	L30	W39	L32	1	
39	Tyler James	unr.	V	L34	L15	L41	L38	B---	1	
40	Kyle Arvila	unr.		L4	L31	W36	L25	L26	1	
41	Thomas Darnell	unr.		L14	L29	W39	L30	L28	1	

Ani Barua (L) and Josh Sinanan
direct the Veterans Day Open.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



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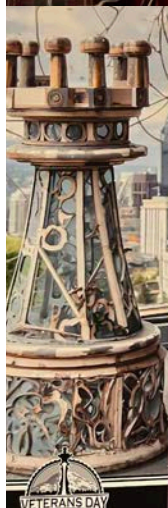
A massive rook on a poster created by Tim Dalton using AI towers over the Rising section players at the Veterans Day Open.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



Veterans Day Open: Rising

#	Name	Rtng	Cls	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot	Prize
1	Erkan Chabuk	unr.		W12	W3	W8	W6	D2	4.5	Tied 1st/2nd: \$363
2	Kurt Von Laven	unr.		W5	W18	W7	W13	D1	4.5	Tied 1st/2nd: \$363
3	Maxence Frenette	unr.		W17	L1	W26	W15	W6	4	Tied 3rd/4th: \$250
4	Eli Reich	unr.		L6	W9	W20	W8	W10	4	Tied 3rd/4th: \$250
5	Jackson Lucy	unr.		L2	D12	W16	W11	W13	3.5	5th - \$150
6	Conner Jones	unr.		W4	W25	W10	L1	L3	3	
7	David Brysiuk	unr.		W11	D22	L2	W14	D12	3	
8	Eric Tobiason	unr.	V	W28	W26	L1	L4	W15	3	Top Veteran
9	Beau Collins	unr.		L26	L4	W19	W25	W17	3	
10	Ben Cavanagh	unr.		W16	W15	L6	W18	L4	3	
11	William Boyer-Montgomery	unr.		L7	W17	W23	L5	W18	3	
12	Molly Hubbard	unr.	F	L1	D5	W21	X22	D7	3	
13	Lucas Giacalone	unr.		H---	W21	W22	L2	L5	2.5	
14	Stephen Yang	unr.		D21	W16	L15	L7	W20	2.5	
15	Alex Pennington	unr.		W19	L10	W14	L3	L8	2	
16	Christina Kim	unr.	F	L10	L14	L5	W21	W25	2	
17	Ignacio Monterrubio	unr.		L3	L11	X28	W26	L9	2	
18	Catherine Liguori	unr.	F	W20	L2	W25	L10	L11	2	
19	Tim Dalton	unr.		L15	L20	L9	B---	W23	2	
20	Natalie Alvarado	unr.	F	L18	W19	L4	W23	L14	2	
21	Ramunas Wierzbicki	unr.		D14	L13	L12	L16	W26	1.5	
22	Jonathan Frost	unr.	V	W23	D7	L13	F12	---	1.5	2nd Top Veteran
23	Uyen Bui	unr.	F	L22	W28	L11	L20	L19	1	
24	Christian Chavez	unr.		U---	B---	---	---	---	1	
25	Scott Jordan	unr.		X27	L6	L18	L9	L16	1	
26	Dwayne Adams	unr.	V	W9	L8	L3	L17	L21	1	
27	Seth Anderson	unr.		F25	---	---	---	---	0	
28	Eli Brown	unr.	V	L8	L23	F17	---	---	0	

The Centilia Cultural Center offered spacious and well-lit playing conditions at the Veterans Day Open.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



Daniel Shubin (L) vs Leonid Gavrysh and other Open section players at the Veterans Day Open. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Supporting and promoting chess related activities throughout Washington State since 1946.



Josh Sinanan
 President
 joshsinanan@gmail.com

(206) 769-3757
 4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052



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The playing hall at the Veterans Day Open featured wooden DGT boards, courtesy of WCF, for players in the Open section. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



Dear Northwest Chess Readers,

**We are immensely excited to announce a new partnership between:
Washington Chess Federation and SettleKing**



As a non-profit organization, Washington Chess Federation (WCF) and its customers have perennially struggled with paying exorbitant fees to PayPal or other payment processing platforms for tournament registrations, membership renewals or even accepting payments for food at WCF hosted tournaments. A lot of WCF's processes revolving around managing memberships, subscriptions and renewals have also been manual, cumbersome and time consuming.

This partnership with SettleKing will provide the following benefits: 1. **Automatic Membership management** along with automatic notifications and reminders free of charge. 2. Players will be able to **register for tournaments** or **pay membership** fees on NWChess.com by paying via their self-funded SettleKing Wallet. 3. **SettleKing saves thousands of dollars** for non-profits such as WCF with their free wallet to wallet transfers and nominal one-time fixed fee for deposits and withdrawals. 4. Unlike PayPal, your refunds processed (for withdrawals from tournaments) via SettleKing **won't incur any additional processing fees**.

What is SettleKing? SettleKing is an application that helps you split any expense, track payables and receivables and pay friends, family, and businesses all in one easy to use, safe and secure platform. Many chess clubs and chess coaches are using SettleKing's free software to track hours taught for their students and invoice automatically and benefit from ability to send automatic reminders, track payables/ receivables and receive accept payments all in one app. Note: A) SettleKing is an ACH only payment platform. B) SettleKing is available for download on both the iOS Appstore and Google PlayStore.

Where can I learn more about SettleKing? Website: www.settleking.com, Resources: <https://settleking.com/auth/use-cases/tutoring>

Videos: <https://settleking.com/auth/how-it-works>, https://youtu.be/8nbdd3hP8_A

What are the steps involved in signing up with SettleKing and being ready to pay via SettleKing? 1) Create your account on SettleKing (Estimated time of completion: 1 min) – Note: WCF will work with SettleKing to create your account automatically and share a temporary password. 2) Complete KYC (Estimated time of completion: 1 min): Learn how: <https://settleking.com/auth/faq> 3) Add a bank account on SettleKing via PLAID, your data is safe, secure and encrypted and bank details etc. are not stored on SettleKing. (Estimated time of completion: 1 min): Learn how: <https://settleking.com/auth/faq> 4) Fund your wallet on SettleKing and voila you are now ready to pay for WCF tournaments and renewing registrations the next time you visit NWChess.com. If you are stuck or need help at any time, please use the 24*7 hotline/ support line provided by SettleKing for WCF's community.

What to expect next: This transition is expected to take a few months. Watch out for email announcements or notifications once we go live. SettleKing will create accounts for all our users in the WA chess community on SettleKing and share temporary passwords. Once you receive your temporary password, please login and reset your password, complete KYC, add your bank account and fund your wallet. This partnership will allow us to expand our reach and provide better services to our customers. We are committed to making this transition as smooth as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you for your continued support. Best Chess Regards, WCF & SettleKing

Veterans Day Open: Blitz

#	Name	Rtng	Cls	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Tot	Prize
1	Siddarth M. Sundaram	2462		W16	W24	W4	W5	D2	W10	W6	6.5	1st - \$160
2	Vinesh Ravuri	2320		W33	W22	W6	W7	D1	W3	D10	6	2nd - \$120
3	Vignesh Anand	2130		W28	W13	L7	W25	W16	L2	W15	5	=3rd - \$20
4	Bayram Turapov	2120		W18	W15	L1	W26	L7	W12	W17	5	=3rd - \$20
5	Michael Adarlo	2108	V	W19	W37	W10	L1	W8	L6	W7	5	=3rd - \$20
6	Pranav Senthilkumar	2083		W29	W32	L2	W20	W18	W5	L1	5	=3rd - \$20
7	Andrew Fletcher	1890		W40	W21	W3	L2	W4	W11	L5	5	=1st U1900: \$25
8	Chad Boey	1756		W30	L10	W28	W19	L5	W27	W18	5	=1st U1900: \$25
9	Daniel Aisaka	1624		W42	L11	L19	W30	W28	W16	W20	5	1st U1700 - \$50
10	Tian Sang	2352		W17	W8	L5	W12	W11	L1	D2	4.5	
11	William J Schill II	2273		W38	W9	D12	W27	L10	L7	W22	4.5	
12	Jonathan Molod	2014		W34	W25	D11	L10	W36	L4	W24	4.5	
13	Te Wei	1629	F	W41	L3	L18	W39	W26	L17	W27	4	Top Female
14	William Dann	1547		L21	W31	W30	L16	L19	W40	W29	4	
15	Daniel Lopez	1360		W23	L4	D36	D31	W24	W19	L3	4	Tied 1st U1500/U1300/1100: \$25
16	Walter Guity	1333		L1	W39	W32	W14	L3	L9	W25	4	Tied 1st U1500/U1300/1100: \$25
17	Austin Wentz	1318		L10	W40	L22	W43	W37	W13	L4	4	Tied 1st U1500/U1300/1100: \$25
18	George Michailov	1184		L4	W42	W13	W22	L6	W25	L8	4	Tied 1st U1500/U1300/1100: \$25
19	Artin Tajdini	1059		L5	W43	W9	L8	W14	L15	W26	4	Tied 1st U1500/U1300/1100: \$25
20	Corey Wukelic	897		L22	W33	W37	L6	W23	W36	L9	4	Tied 1st U1500/U1300/1100: \$25 + Biggst Upset win - \$40
21	George Garest	unr.		W14	L7	L25	L37	W39	W38	W33	4	1st Unrated - \$50
22	Gilbert B Lomboy	1757	V	W20	L2	W17	L18	D27	W33	L11	3.5	
23	Maxence Frenette	unr.		L15	W29	L26	D33	L20	W35	W36	3.5	
24	Rogelio Zaragoza	1894		W39	L1	L27	W40	L15	W28	L12	3	
25	Selina Cheng	1478	F	W35	L12	W21	L3	W31	L18	L16	3	
26	Vahe Gul	1343		W36	L27	W23	L4	L13	W31	L19	3	
27	Jeffrey M Burgert	1338		D31	W26	W24	L11	D22	L8	L13	3	
28	Max McCall	1204		L3	W41	L8	W32	L9	L24	W40	3	
29	Isaac Woodson	1028	V	L6	L23	L40	W41	W43	W37	L14	3	
30	Nathaniel Walker	823	V	L8	W38	L14	L9	L35	W34	W39	3	
31	Koby Portes	unr.		D27	L14	W35	D15	L25	L26	W37	3	
32	Kyle Arvila	unr.		B---	L6	L16	L28	L40	W41	W38	3	
33	Kyle Boddy	1285		L2	L20	W41	D23	W34	L22	L21	2.5	
34	Brooks Carlston	989		L12	D35	W38	L36	L33	L30	W41	2.5	
35	Christian Ian Catayas	unr.	V	L25	D34	L31	L38	W30	L23	W43	2.5	
36	Ramunas Wierzbicki	unr.		L26	B---	D15	W34	L12	L20	L23	2.5	
37	Ralph Anthony	1580		W43	L5	L20	W21	L17	L29	L31	2	
38	Juergen Werner	1268		L11	L30	L34	W35	X42	L21	L32	2	
39	Christian Jordan	966		L24	L16	W42	L13	L21	W43	L30	2	
40	Jack Dunham	938		L7	L17	W29	L24	W32	L14	L28	2	
41	Tyler James	unr.		L13	L28	L33	L29	B---	L32	L34	1	
42	Andrew Goupinets	unr.		L9	L18	L39	B---	F38	---	---	1	
43	Thomas Darnell	unr.		L37	L19	B---	L17	L29	L39	L35	1	

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- 📅 12 Years of Experience
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- 🏆 2032 USCF Rating
- 🎓 UW Grad
- 🦅 Eagle Scout




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*George Michailov (L) vs Bayram Turapov at the Veterans Day Open Blitz Tournament.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



Presidential Blitz Championship



Sunday, February 25th, 2024

Lakeside Upper School

14050 1st Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125

Contact: Josh Sinanan,
WCF President, 206-769-3757
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.
Online registration and
payment **deadline @ 5 PM on
Saturday, February 24**, or else
register at site.

Eligibility: Open to all junior +
adult players.

Format: A 9-Round single Swiss in one
section.

Time Control: G/3; +3 sec. increment.

Schedule: At-site registration: Sun.
6:45-7:30 PM.

Rds.: 7:45 PM, 8, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9, 9:15,
9:30, 9:45 PM. Awards ~ 10 PM.

Prize Fund: \$600 (based on 50 paid
entries).

1st - 3rd: \$130-100-70. 1st Unrated: \$50.
1st U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200:
\$50

Entry Fee: \$20 if postmarked or online by
2/18, \$25 by 2/24, \$30 at-site. Free entry
for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

Byes: Three half-point byes available; if
interested, request before end of round 2.

Memberships: Current US Chess and
WCF membership/Northwest Chess
subscription required. Memberships
must be paid at time of registration.

Rating: US Chess Blitz Rated. Higher of
February US Chess or current NWSRS
rating will be used to determine pairings
and prizes.

Al Forthan Memorial Scholarship Chess Tournament Fundraiser!

Please join us and enjoy a competitive chess tournament while raising funds for Oregon High School seniors impacted by addiction and poverty. Meet our participating Alumni, clients, affiliates, supporters, and help support our **community in the journey toward recovery.**



One-day tournament: Saturday, March 23, 2024
at Matt Dishman Center, 77 NE Knott St, Portland 97212

Schedule:

Day of Registration: 9:00 – 9:50am
Rounds: 10:00am – 7:00pm
Prizes and Awards: 7:30pm



Entry Fee: \$50

At least half of all proceeds will fund the Al Forthan Scholarship for students impacted by poverty and addiction.

Registration: Pre-register by emailing dbreckenridge@voaor.org or register day of from 9am-9:50am. Additional Information emailed after registration. For additional assistance with registration call: **(503) 802-0313**

Rounds times: 6 rounds, **(25 min + 5 sec increment)** ~Net 30 minutes per side, from 10:00am – 7:00pm

3 Sections: Scholastic (Under 1600/Unrated), Reserve (Under 1800/Unrated), Open (1800+ Rated)

Food & Recreation: Matt Dishman Center has recreations, including a pool & hot tub for family and supporting members to enjoy while waiting for rounds. We will also have food and drink available for additional support to the scholarship. *A voucher will be provided for players bringing their own tournament chess set & clock.

Prizes: Adjusted proportionally if there are a different number of players, with increasing gift cards and movie tickets for lower attendee scaling. *Must have USCF rating to compete for Open section prizes.

~60 Sponsored. We will email updates for when pre-registration entries meet the projected 120 participants.

Sections	Prizes for placement	Additional Prizes
Open (1800+ Rated)	1st: \$1000 2nd: \$500 3rd: \$250 4th & 5th: \$100 Nike Gift cards 6th-10th: 2 Regal tickets	Raffle opportunity for additional prizes
Reserve (Under 1800/Unrated)	1st: \$500 2nd: \$250 3rd: \$100 4th & 5th: \$50 Nike Gift cards 6th-10th: 2 Regal tickets	Raffle opportunity for additional prizes
Scholastic (K-9: Under 1600/Unrated)	1st: \$225 2nd: \$125 3rd: \$50 4th & 5th: \$50 Nike Gift cards 6th-10th: 2 Regal tickets – 10th+: \$5 Burgerville Gift card	Raffle, Trophies, Medals, & chocolate chess pieces!

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

→ Address ↙
 7212 Woodlawn Ave NE ←
 Seattle WA 98115
 ↗ Info ↖
 www.seattlechess.club
Addresses for Entries
 SCC Tnmt Dir
 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168
 —or—
 contact@seattlechess.club

Jan 7, Feb 4 **Sunday Tornado**
Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/50;+10. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC).
Prizes: 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 per EF to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

Jan 20, Mar 3 **SCC Novice**
Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/60;+15. **EF:** \$20 (-\$2 SCC members). **Prizes:** SCC membership(s). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

Jan 21 *New Date* **G/20 Hexes**
Format: 5-RR in 6- or 5-player sections. **TC:** G/20;+8. **EF:** \$12 (+\$6 fee for non-SCC). **Prize Fund:** \$\$54 b/6. **Prizes:** \$36-18. **Reg:** 12-12:45 p.m. **Time Frame:** 1 to ~6:30 p.m. **Byes:** 0. **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

Jan. 27-28 **SCC Adult Swiss**
Format: 4-SS, open to those born before 1/29/2006. **TC:** G120; +30. **EF:** Free for SCC members. \$12 for non-members. **Prize Fund:** \$\$320 gtd. **Prizes:** \$100-70, U1800 50, U1600 45, U1400 40, U1200 & Unrated 15. **Reg:** Sat. 10-10:45 a.m. **Rds:** Sat. 11-4:30, Sun. 11-4:30. **Byes:** 1 available. Rounds 3 or 4 must commit at registration. **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC. *Sponsored by Henry Yan.*

Feb 3, Mar 2 **Saturday Quads**
Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rtg. **TC:** G/100;+15. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free quad entry. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-6:30. **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

SCC Fridays

One US Chess-rated round per night (free to SCC members, \$5 per night for others) normally played at a rate of 40/90 followed by 30/60. Drop in for any round!

January Thaw (close ratings): 1/5, 12, 19, 26.

Cabin Fever: 2/2,9, 16.,23

March Winds (close ratings): 3/1,8,15,22.

Wednesdays are for casual play

Seattle City Championship

January 13-14

A five-round Swiss with a time control of G/75;+30. The prize fund of **\$620** is based on 26 paid entries, 3 per prize group.

First	\$150	Class C	\$70
Second	\$100	Class D	\$60
Class A	\$90	Class E & Under	\$50
Class B	\$80	Unrated	\$20

EF: \$45 (\$34 for SCC members) if received by 1/5. Thereafter, \$57 (\$46 for SCC members).

Reg.: Sat. 9-9:45am. **Rds:** Sat. 10-2-6, Sun. 11-3.

Byes: 2 (Sun. rds, commit at reg.). **Misc.:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS. NC.

